Reviewed!

iPOD PHOTO: SEXY? YES! USEFUL? HMM . . .

101
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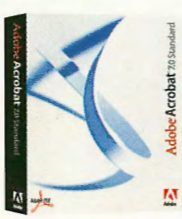
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We'd spend our own hard-earned money on these products.

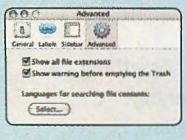
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QUICK TIPS
FROM THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

→ OÙ EST LA FENÊTRE?



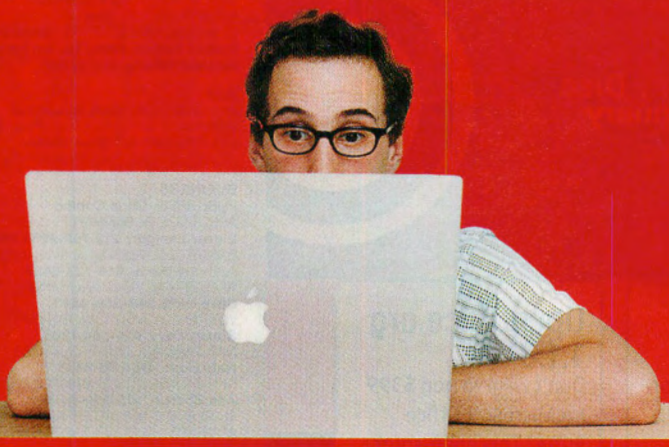
Your Mac is multilingual and smart enough to search your files for foreign-language content. Open Finder › Preferences › Advanced, and tell it to. **From "Command Command-F," p60.**

→ RECALCITRANT RAM
When you try to start up your Mac and hear either four beeps or the sound of breaking glass instead of your usual happy chime, your RAM is probably bad. Shut down your Mac, ground yourself by touching your Mac's power supply, and remove any third-party RAM. **From "Total Troubleshooting," p16.**

→ TUNE IN
iTunes radio presets work just like any audio file; you can drag them right into your Playlists for easier access. **From *Ask Us*, p54.**

→ PULL THE PLUG
When USB devices go bad, they can cause havoc on your Mac. Try unplugging all nonessential USB devices if your Mac starts exhibiting odd behavior—such as not being able to shut down. **From *Ask Us*, p54.**

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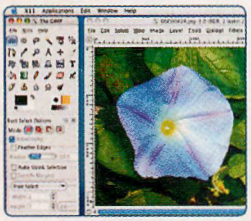
the disc

A bargain is good, but totally free is *waaaay* better. Starting on page 26, we introduce you to no-cost open-source apps that rival their commercial counterparts—we put some of the best on this month's Disc, plus a pile of other useful apps and utilities.



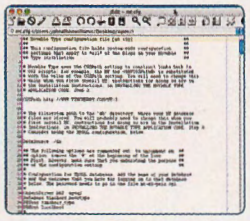
GIMP 2.0.5

Photoshop is great—but so is saving $649. This open-source image editor may have all the features you'll ever want.



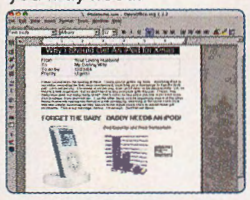
jEdit 4.2

Want to compare this open-source text editor with the industry-standard BBEdit? You can—they're *both* on the Disc!



OpenOffice.org 1.1.3

Don't want to pop $399 for Microsoft Office 2004? This open-source productivity app has all the office abilities you may need.



AUDIO & MUSIC
Ableton Live 4.0.4 *demo*
Audacity 1.2.2
iDrum *demo*

DEVELOPMENT
Bare Bones BBEdit 8.0 *demo*
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REALbasic 5.5.4 *demo*

FUN & GAMES
Future Boy! Release 1 *demo*

GRAPHICS & MULTIMEDIA
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Desktop Manager 0.5.2rc2
Folder Icon X 1.9.6

INTERNET & COMMUNICATION
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Cyberduck 2.3.3
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iPodderX 2.2
iStumbler 89
JiWire Portable Hotspot Locator 1.0

PRODUCTIVITY
Now Up-to-Date & Contact 4.5.3 *trial*
OpenOffice.org 1.1.3

SPECIALTY
Meteorologist 1.4.0b2
World of Aqua Icons

UTILITIES
DiskTracker (Classic) 2.3
DiskTracker (OS X) 2.3

SPONSORS
JiWire Portable Hotspot Locator 1.0

Staff Video: Into the Groove

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What's in a Word?



When Apple announced the iMac G5 late last August, much was made of the fact that it looked surprisingly like an iPod with a thyroid disorder. Pundits averred that Apple was mimicking the iPod's look to capitalize on the runaway success of its industry-leading digital-music player—and Apple proved them right by using the tag line "From the creators of the iPod" in its iMac G5 promo materials.

And why shouldn't Apple hook the new iMac to the iPod's rising star? After all, Apple sold 2,016,000 iPods last quarter, and market-watchers are predicting that around 2,700,000 more of the lil' darlings will sell before we all watch the ball drop in Times Square. Apple is changing everything—again. The Apple II changed the scope of computing, the Mac changed the way we use computers, the iMac changed computer design, and now the iPod is changing the way we listen to and distribute music.

And, conversely, the iPod is changing Apple. Most obviously, it and its costar, the iTunes Music Store, have helped boost Apple's stock price to levels unseen since the first few months of this millennium. It has also firmly relegated memories of the bumbling and beige Apple to The Bad Old Days, and instead solidified the perception that if you just gotta have the latest and greatest technogoodies, you just gotta have Apple.

The iPod is changing Apple.

But there's another, more-subtle change taking place—the word *Computer* in *Apple Computer, Inc.* is becoming less central to the company's activities and vision. Case in point: On the morning of October 26th, I watched Steve Jobs, Bono, and The Edge engage in a series of group hugs during a presentation that introduced the iPod Photo (●●●●○ p34), iPod U2 Special Edition ($349, www.apple.com/ipod/u2), U2's 400-song downloadable virtual box set, and a fanciful set of iPod holders called iPod Socks. The iMac G5 was mentioned in passing, but the rest of the presentation was pure Apple Not-Computer, Inc.

Most certainly, in light of its professional-grade offerings, Apple is a growing, dedicated, and focused Power Mac G5 computer company. But on the consumer level, the iMac is merely a vessel for iLife, the iTunes Music Store, and the new king of the hill, the iPod.

The iMac G5—the ultimate iPod accessory.

Enjoy,



STAFF RANTS

Q. Should Apple change its name? If so, what should its new name be?



Niko Coucouvanis SHAKEN AND STIRRED
Should Apple change its name? If so, what should its new name be?
Yes, Apple should change its name to The Bastids Who Just Stole Former *MacAddict* Features Editor Kris Fong away from us. Now pour me another shot.



Jenifer Morgan GROUPIES' GROUPIE
Should Apple change its name? If so, what should its new name be?
How about Groupies R Us? Of course, that would make me a groupie of Groupies, which is—let's just get it out there—really pathetic.



Noah Tsutsui PUNK PUNDIT
Should Apple change its name? If so, what should its new name be?
If North Korea can still get away with calling itself the Democratic People's Republic, then Apple shouldn't have any trouble with its mildly misleading name.



Roman Loyola NAME GAMER
Should Apple change its name? If so, what should its new name be?
Apple should take a cue from Prince (aka the artist formerly known as The Artist Formerly Known As Prince) and just use as its moniker. We would all pronounce it as "Apple," but employees would have to learn to draw using Fine Point Sharpies when filling out forms that require their company name.



Peter Marshutz KRISLESS
Should Apple change its name? If so, what should its new name be?
Apple will eventually change its name—it's only a matter of time. The new name will probably be something like Apple AOL Time Warner Disney Pixar Universal Media, Inc.



Kris Fong
THE ARTIST FORMERLY KNOWN AS A *MACADDICT* EDITOR
Should Apple change its name? If so, what should its new name be?
It can't change its name—it'd just confuse the bejeezus out of everyone. Just look at nomenclatural enigmas like Chyna aka Joanie Lauer aka Chyna Doll; Sean Combs aka Puff Daddy aka P. Diddy aka Sean Jean; Cat Stevens aka Yusuf Islam; and Martha Stewart aka #55170-054.



Mark Rosenthal MR. IDEA FLESHER-OUTER
Should Apple change its name? If so, what should its new name be?
Apple must change their name! I don't quite have a bead on it yet, but maybe something like Apple It's New Co. or Apple Who Knew? Co. Maybe even Apple: A Hard Act to Follow Co. or Apple iWhatever Co.



Max MARKETING WHIZBANGER
Should Apple change its name? If so, what should its new name be?
It shouldn't, but it should change the boring ol' Apple Store to something more au courant, such as Apple Hut, AppleMax, Apple Barn, AppleShack, Apple Depot, Apple-Mart, Apple Zone, AppleValu, Apple Warehouse, Appleco, Apple City, AppleUSA, Apples'n'Things, or Apple's Secret.

comingsoon:february2005

Here's what our editors are preparing for the next issue of *MacAddict*.

The iPod isn't just about music. We'll reveal incredible superpowers to **transform your 'Pod** from a mere digital-music player to an all-in-one wonder. We're rounding up all of **.Mac's competitors**—including the freebies—to find out which ones offer the sweetest deal. We'll also show you **two ways to blog** (complete with template-customization but without the messy database twiddling), photography tricks to **make your surplus crap look its best on eBay**, and a cheap-and-easy way to **add voice-chat to your online gaming**. Finally, we'll review and rate **Corel's Painter IX**, **SeV solar-powered jacket**, **Griffin's RadioShark**, **Nikon's Coolpix 8400**, and more.



PERFECT COLOR.
OUR PROOF IS IN YOUR PROOF.

HUE FOR HUE - A PERFECT MATCH EVERY TIME. INTRODUCING TRUE COLOR IN AN LCD, THE 21.3" LACIE 321 MONITOR IS THE OPTIMAL CHOICE FOR GRAPHICS PROFESSIONALS. ON-SCREEN PROOFING IS NOW A REALITY DUE TO THE CRT-GRADE GAMUT OF ITS SA-SUPERFINE TFT PANEL AND 10-BIT GAMMA CORRECTION. WE'RE MONITORING YOUR PROOFS. WWW.LACIE.COM

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iPod: Radio of the Future?

Podcasting brings portable audio to portable players.

Howard Stern may jumpstart satellite radio, but if you enjoy terrestrial and Internet talk shows, and miss out on favorite programs due to work and sleep obligations, look no further than your iPod. We're talking *podcasting*—a new, fast-growing method of delivering radio content on demand. Unlike standard and Internet radio, which generally broadcast live programming, podcasting enables you to subscribe to prerecorded content that automatically downloads to your iPod (or similar portable player) whenever you plug it into your Mac. Podcast content gives you the freedom to choose when, where, and how to listen—similar to subscribing to text-based RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds on your Mac to read the latest news headlines and other topics of interest.

A podcast is essentially an audio file—usually MP3—of a radio show, but podcast files differ from downloadable MP3s in that you can set them up to automatically download straight into iTunes and then onto your iPod, if you so choose. To do this, you need a *receiver* app such as iPodder (free, http://ipodder.sourceforge.net) or iPodderX ($10, http://ipodderx.com) that can interpret RSS feeds for podcasts, a subscription to the site that hosts your coveted shows (they're generally free), and iTunes (free, www.apple.com)—plus an iPod if you want to take your shows on the road. Once you install it, set the software to automatically scour your subscription sites and download any updated content in the background.

ON THE DISC
iPodder 1.0 and iPodderX 2.1.2



Free software sucks podcasts into iTunes—then put 'em on your 'Pod for on-the-go shows.

Because of its infancy (not yet two months old at press time), most podcast content comes courtesy of opinionated bloggers who are finding a new voice in the Internet community—literally. Rather than wax poetic about everything and nothing using Web text, audio-savvy bloggers are stepping up to their computer mics and speaking their minds to anyone who wants to listen. To find your recordings, then wrap them in RSS 2.0 enclosures (see www.thetwowayweb.com/payloadsforrss for more information), and make subscriptions and your recordings available for download.

CASTING CALL

To join the podcastathon, equip yourself with a mic, audio interface, recording app, and iTunes. If you want to add music or sound effects, use Soundflower (free, www.cycling74.com) to bridge iTunes with your recording app. Create

PHOTOGRAPH BY MAX OPPENHEIM/GETTY IMAGES

content, check out www.ipodder.org and www.podcast.net, both of which list podcast feeds that cover a variety of topics, including news, comedy, politics, music, poetry, food, and technology, as well as a few podcasts from terrestrial radio stations, such as KFI, WGBH, and KOMO. If you're looking for commercial programming, AudioFeast ($49.95 for a one-year subscription, www.audiofeast.com) offers licensed radio content from broadcast biggies such as NPR, BBC, Discovery Channel, SportsNews, and Bloomberg. The service wasn't Mac-compatible at press time, but AudioFeast told us it would roll out Mac support by the end of 2004.

—Kris Fong

PODCAST PIONEER ADAM CURRY

The name Adam Curry may conjure up memories of a big-haired MTV veejay popular in the 80s and 90s (*Headbangers Ball*, anyone?), but did you know he's also one of podcasting's three pioneers, along with Dave Winer and Dave Slusher? That's right. The same guy who kicked it with Ozzy, Def Leppard, and Bon Jovi is responsible for cobirthing podcasting. And he also happens to be a Mac addict.

With the help of a team of programmers and designers, Curry developed iPodder, an open-source app that can automatically download podcasts you subscribe to directly into iTunes, then place the audio content on any connected iPod. (Since its release, iPodder's source code has spawned a shareware version called iPodderX.)

But podcasting's roots actually go back about five years. Curry, who has worked in the broadcasting industry for decades, saw the untapped potential for real-time broadcasting via broadband Internet back when the dot-com boom was still booming. His goal was to find a way to deliver audio and video content straight into people's homes via their computers. Unfortunately, having enough bandwidth to stream audio and video content was—and still is—an unattainable goal for most consumers.

So he changed his way of thinking. Since most broadcast content we hear every day is actually prerecorded—whether it's a news story presented by a "live" news team or an edited radio segment played "live" on the air—Curry researched the possibilities of making prerecorded content available to broadband-equipped Internet consumers. He wanted a system in which he could subscribe to content and create his own channels for others to tap, and he wanted the content waiting for him (instead of him waiting for it) to download. Today, that system is Podcasting.



With his home cable connection down, Curry delivered his October 14th Podcast to the masses via his PowerBook. He drove to a nearby school and "borrowed" its wireless bandwidth to do the upload.

If you're interested in finding out more about this new broadcast medium, Curry podcasts his own show, Daily Source Code, from his home using a G4 PowerBook. You can subscribe (using RSS) to his daily musings at http://wolk.datashed.net/users/adam@curry.com/curryCom.xml and keep up with what's going on in his daily life via his blog at http://live.curry.com.

NEW STUFF



DON'T LOOK BACK

Altec Lansing GT5051

$149.95

www.alteclansing.com

Available: Now

But will they work in an open field?

With the GT5051, you don't have to worry about finding room for the rear surround-sound speakers—they're mounted on top of the front speakers and bounce sound off of walls so that you hear audio behind you.

YO, GI JOE!

Feral Interactive Commandos Battle Pack

$50

www.feral.co.uk

Available: November 2004

Commandos 2 and 3 finally come to the Mac in one glorious package: the Battle Pack, in which you control a rag-tag group of Allied forces in World War II. LAN play includes options for deathmatch or cooperative combat.

LOOK MA, NO MAC!

ILY SlimDVDup

$699

www.ily.com

Available: Now



This CD/DVD burner doesn't need your Mac.

Using the SlimDVDup, you can make copies—er, backups—of your CDs and DVDs without using your Mac. The compact unit supports all DVD media and can serve as a portable music-CD player.

POCKET OFFICE

PalmOne Tungsten T5

$399

www.palmone.com

Available: Now



If only the T5 had a clickwheel...

The latest Palm PDA/MP3 player has 256MB of memory and built-in Bluetooth, and connects to your Mac as a USB drive for transferring photos and videos that you can view on its 320 by 480 color screen. You can even use it to edit and create Word and Excel docs, and to view PowerPoint files.

DROOLWORTHY

Sexy Stuff We Can't Wait to Get Our Mitts On

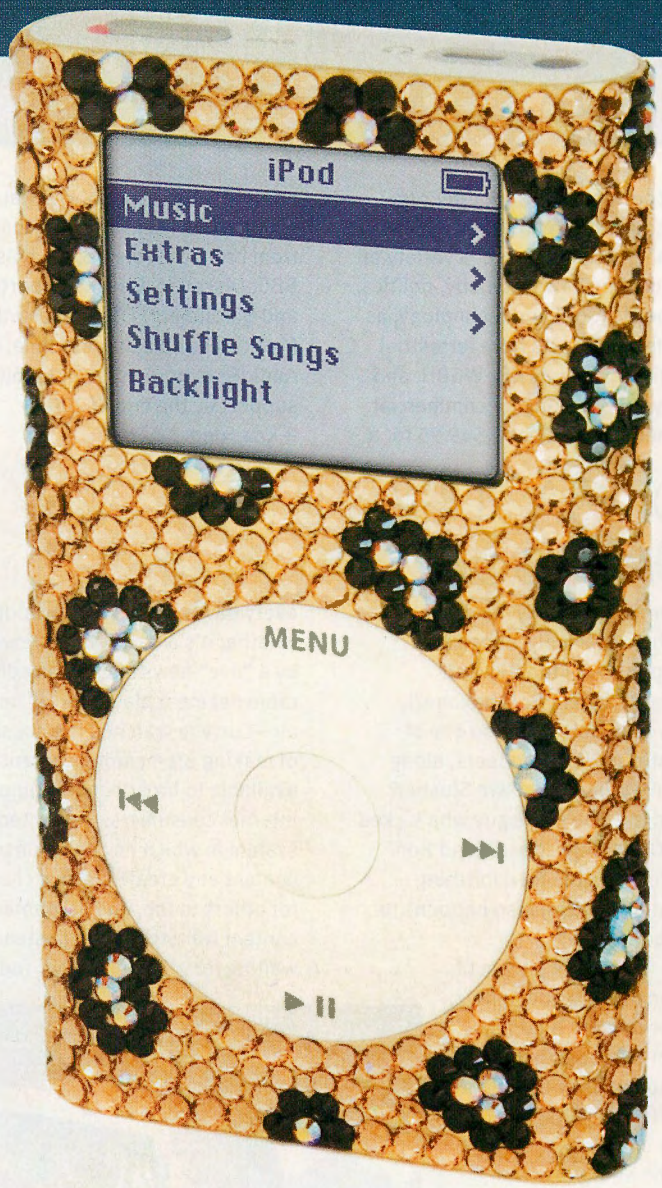


IMAGE COURTESY OF SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

Maxi-Bling mini→

You may think the iPod mini is the ultimate digital-music fashion statement, but Simple Solutions Technologies' **Crystalmini-Jaguar** ($899, http://crystalmini.com) ups the bling factor by encrusting a gold mini with 1,000 Swarovski crystals. Crystalminis are available in a variety of colors and patterns from $699—and a "Tiger*rr*" version is in the works.



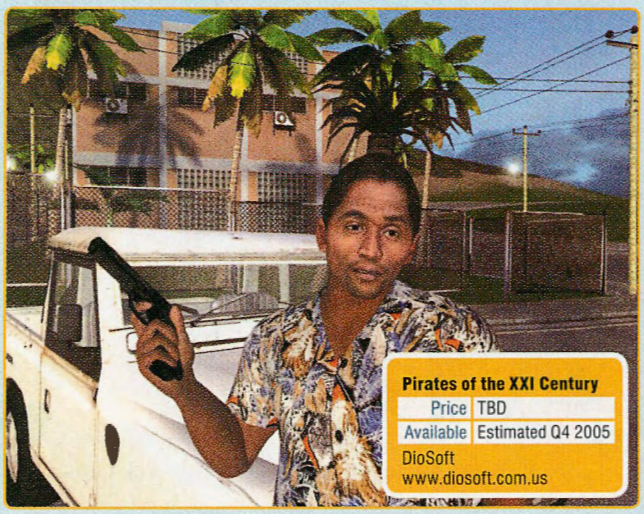
←Feed Your Head

The sunglass superstars at Oakley believe that since your ears are on your head, maybe your MP3 player should be as well. The new **Thump** line of MP3 player–equipped eyewear ($395 for 128MB or $495 for 256MB, http://oakley.com) comes in seven different lens and frame color combinations, with polarized lenses on the 256MB models.

IMAGE COURTESY OF OAKLEY

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: THE NEXT GENERATION

Pirating today is a major problem for high-seas commerce; now you can be a part of the solution—or the problem. In DioSoft's **Pirates Of The XXI Century**, expected next year, you can play an American navy seal, a malicious but freedom-loving modern pirate, or a minion of the Hong-Kong Triad—choose your side and fight the corresponding enemies. The game combines linear story lines with nonlinear opportunities for mayhem or bravery, as in games like True Crime and Grand Theft Auto. The main action is first-person shooter but changes to third-person when you're driving, sailing, flying, or even diving in the ocean. Multiplayer action includes deathmatch and assault modes on large ocean vessels.—*Matt Osborn*



Pirates of the XXI Century

Price	TBD
Available	Estimated Q4 2005

DioSoft
www.diosoft.com.us

He's gunning for the guy who sold him that ludicrous shirt.

GENTLEMEN, START YOUR CHARIOTS

If you dream of taking on Ben Hur or wish you could experience the Olympic games without softball or curling, we have good news. Candella Software's **Chariots: The First Olympics** plops you in the driver's seat of your very own tricked-out chariot and gives you the chance to participate in the 776 BC Olympics. Choose from one of eight charioteers and one of eight chariot models—each character has unique abilities, and each chariot handles differently. You race throughout the ancient world, traversing snowbound mountains, deserts, and meadows, and passing monuments such as the Temple of Zeus, Lighthouse of Pharos, Acropolis, and Pyramids of Giza.—*MO*



One solution to high gas prices.

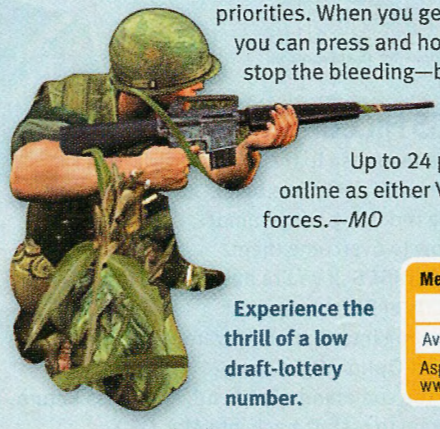
Chariots: The First Olympics

Price	$39.99
Available	Q2 2005

Candella Software
www.candellasoftware.com
www.planetchariots.com

EXPERIENCE YOUR OWN DIGITAL QUAGMIRE

The creators of Medal of Honor: Allied Assault plunge you into the most controversial conflict of the modern era (until recently, that is): the Vietnam War. In Aspyr's **Men of Valor**, the political situation, racial tension, and violence are all historically accurate, from search-and-destroy missions in Da Nang to the slurs used by your computer-controlled fellow grunts. During some of the missions, a camera crew follows your patrol, trying to take movies of combat—saving their sorry asses is one of your priorities. When you get hit (and you will), you can press and hold a bandage key to stop the bleeding—but you can't shoot while applying first aid, so find cover. Up to 24 players can play online as either Viet Cong or U.S. forces.—*MO*



Experience the thrill of a low draft-lottery number.

Men of Valor

Price	$49.99
Available	December 2004

Aspyr Media
www.aspyr.com

NEW MYST WORLDS—BUILT BY FANS

Ever finished a game and wished that you could create the next installment? A group of gaming fans are doing just that, creating **Ages of Ilathid**, a side story to the Myst series, with permission from Myst developer Cyan. In Ilathid, you go on a mission for Atrus, a character in Myst, and seek Linking Books that lead to new worlds.—*MO*

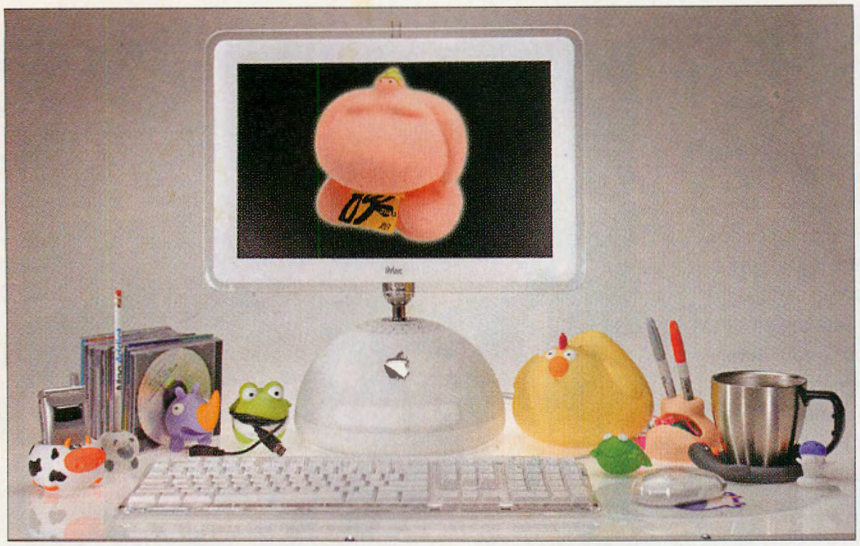
Ages of Ilathid

Price	TBD
Available	TBD

Independent Myst fans
http://ilathid.losing-ground.net

MOD YOUR XBOX TO RUN MAC OS X

You can now run your favorite OS on your favorite game console. Caveats: Performance is slow, and getting your Mac OS–equipped Xbox running is far from trivial. You need to install the Xbox-specific Xebian Linux, compile the Pear PC PowerPC emulator (see "Mac OS X for PCs," Dec/04, p16), then install OS X on your Xbox. Learn how to do it at www.cc.gatech.edu/~ranma1/mac_install.html.



I'M JUST A LONELY COW

If your iMac G4 has been feeling low since the snappy new iMac G5 upstaged it, cheer it up with one of the many übercute accessories from **ani ani design studio** (www.anianidesign.com). Give it a mouse pad with the poignant legend "I'm just a lonely cow" ($5.99), a Cababo Frog Design Cable Winder ($5.99), a Frog Dust Blower ($2.99), or any of their colorful friends, and you'll put a smile on its optical drive tray—just don't tell it you're saving up for an iMac G5 in both your Sumo Jiro Coin Bank (onscreen, $11.99) and your Big Chicken Coin Bank ($12.99).—*Rik Myslewski*

BUG OF THE MONTH

MacFixIt™
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh



SOLVE IMAC G5 HICCUPS

As positive as the response to the iMac G5 (●●●●○ Dec/04, p38) has been, early purchasers are reporting some minor problems. Here's how to overcome them.

PROBLEMS EJECTING DISCS If you're having problems ejecting CDs or DVDs from your new iMac G5, try booting into Open Firmware (hold down Command-Option-O-F during startup). Then type the command **`eject-cd`**, and press Return. Type **`reset-all`**, and press Return again to restart back into Mac OS X.

HUMMING, BUZZING, AND CLICKING If a humming, buzzing, or clicking noise—quite loud in some instances—is emanating from your iMac G5 (in most cases, the noise level varies with screen brightness), you may need to replace its internal power supply. Apple has identified these faulty power supplies as AC-Bel–branded and claims the noise occurs only when the iMac G5 is plugged into a 220-volt outlets. You can obtain a replacement through Apple's iMac G5 troubleshooting assistant (www.apple.com/support/imac).

OPTIMIZE PERFORMANCE To optimize performance, install matched pairs of DDR SDRAM DIMMs. With two identical DIMMs (for example, two 512MB DIMMs rather than a single 1GB DIMM) installed, the memory bus works at a 128-bit width, which improves your iMac G5's performance—up to 30 percent faster for some operations.

SHAREWARE PICK OF THE MONTH

Folder Icon X www.naratt.com $15

Generic is fine for toothpaste and dishwashing liquid, but shouldn't your Mac have the best of everything? You can start by replacing those dull Mac OS X folder icons with fun and fruity custom ones using Folder Icon X. Here's how.
—*Andrew Tokuda*

ON THE DISC
Folder Icon X 1.9.6

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MADEO



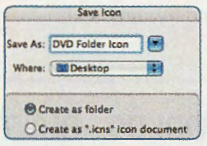
Folder Icon X can spice up your folder icons, making them easier to identify—and a lot more fun to view.



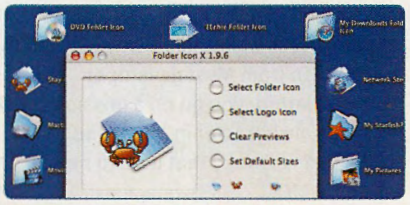
Drag a generic folder inside the Folder Icon X window.

Drag an icon of your choice over the generic folder icon, and press Save.





In the dialog that appears, select Create As Folder, name your new folder, and press Save.



Repeat with other folders and icons, and enjoy a whole new icontabulous world.

BookReview

THE CULT OF MAC

You think you know Mac? Well, we challenge you to open to any photo-filled page in long-time Mac observer Leander Kaheny's 268-page exaltation of the Mac community, *The Cult of Mac* ($39.95; No Starch Press, 2004), and *not* learn something new about the Mac's history or the creativity of its fanatical devotees—from Macquariums to mods, *The Cult of Mac* covers it all. Especially interesting are a 25-page exploration of Japanese Mac addicts and a collection of over two-dozen fantasy Macs. You always knew you were a member of an exclusive, creative community; this book proves it.—*RM*



This colorful coffee-table book celebrates the "cult" in Mac culture.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MADEO

MAC-SAVVY WEB GEMS

MAC-HINTS-TIPS.COM

For years, **www.mac-hints-tips.com** has provided a free monthly PDF newsletter that culls tips from user groups, magazines, books, and Web sites. Now, for $4.95 a month, you can also access the site's entire tips database, which reaches all the way back to The Beige Era. Be forewarned that some features work only in Internet Explorer (though full Safari support is coming soon).

Here's your source for tips ranging from Lotus 1-2-3 to Mac OS 10.3 (Panther).

DIFFERENTDISTRICT.COM

During the past year, **www.differentdistrict.com** has grown into a thriving community, sharing columns, reviews, rumors, and a vast collection of old Apple-commercial QuickTime videos—more than 270 of them, including a choice 1983 Lisa ad that stars a youthful Kevin Costner. The site is now offering all of these videos on one $9 DVD; check it out at http://moviesdifferentdistrict.com/dvd.

This lively site is run by a crew of true Mac addicts—check their About page.

MACMUSIC.ORG

This bilingual (English and French) **www.macmusic.org** site offers an incredibly broad range of both pro and amateur resources for those who make music with their Macs—and it's been around since the Web started wearing Huggies Pull-Ups. Raise a glass of your best Bordeaux to MacMusic.org's visionary founder, François Déchery, in celebration of the site's seventh birthday.—*RM*

Que vous soyez un musicien anglais ou français, ce site est de valeur inestimable.*

*If you are an English or French musician, this site is invaluable.

SATA BREAKS OUTSIDE THE BOX

Drive and display vendor LaCie (www.lacie.com) has introduced the Mac's first external SATA (serial advanced technology attachment) drives with prices beginning at $269 and capacities up to 400GB. When attached to LaCie's two-channel SATA PCI card installed in your Power Mac, these drives will have a theoretical maximum transfer rate of 150 MBps—we can't wait to RAID a pair.—*RM*



Sure, it looks like every other LaCie d2 drive—but this one hooks up to your Power Mac in a whole new way.

What's New

PRINTERS



HP's Photosmart 325 doesn't include the cute photos.

Canon introduced several new PIXMA photo printers, including the **iP6000D** ($179, www.usa.canon.com), **iP5000** ($199.99), **iP4000R** ($229.99), and **iP8500** ($349.99). The company's new multifunction PIXMA's include the **MP130** ($99.99), **MP750** ($249.99), and **MP780** ($299.99). The portable **Selphy DS700** ($199.99) lets you print directly from your digital camera or memory card and connects to your TV for image viewing.

Epson's new **Stylus Photo R320** ($199.99, www.epson.com) has a maximum resolution of 5,760 by 1,440 dpi, uses six individual ink cartridges, and prints directly to CDs and DVDs. The multifunction **Stylus CX4600** ($149.99) comes with a photo kit. Hewlett-Packard unleashed a ton of printers for consumers and SOHOs. The **Photosmart 325** ($149.99, www.hp.com) and **Photosmart 375** ($199.99) are portable photo printers, while the **Photosmart 7450** ($99.99), **Photosmart 8150** ($199.99), and **Photosmart 8450** ($299.99) are desktop photo printers. New monochrome laser printers include the **Laserjet 1160** ($329.99), **Laserjet 1320 series** ($399.99 to $599.99), and **Laserjet 2420 series** ($549.99 to $899.99). HP's color lasers now include the **Color Laserjet 3550 series** ($799.99 to $999.99). HP also unveiled the **Business Inkjet 1200 series** ($199.99 to $349.99) and the **Designjet 110plus series** ($995.99 to $1,595.99), which can print on 24-by-64-inch paper.

Lexmark's latest, the **C760** ($1,349, www.lexmark.com) and **C762** ($1,869) are 25-ppm color laser printers. Its SOHO **E232** ($199) and **E330** ($419) are monochrome lasers.—*Roman Loyola*

TOTAL TROUBLE SHOOTING

Temper tantrums, cursing, or a double shot of Scotch may not solve your problems—but this do-it-yourself guide to a healthy Mac will.

by Dave Hamilton



Even though we use the best personal computer in the known universe, Macs aren't immune to *all* of the world's problems. From bugs to software glitches to downright nasty hardware failures, there's plenty that can go wrong with your Mac, whether you swim in Aqua or kick back in Classic. But never fear. We're here to help you get through it all—or most of it, anyway—and tell you what to do when the going gets tough. We present you with a bevy of common problems we Mac addicts encounter, and we dispense antidotes to cure your Mac's ills. Read on, and enjoy the path to trouble-free computing!

ON THE DISC
CandyBar 2.0.1

Mac Hardware Headaches

Though Macs are reliable beasts no matter what model you have, it's always possible that you'll encounter hardware troubles. Here's how to tackle some common problems.

SLEEPING UGLY

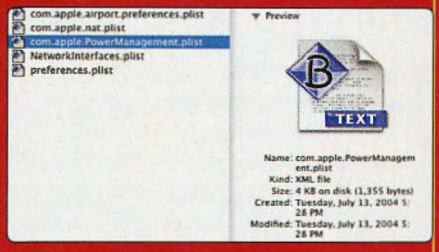
SYMPTOMS: Your Mac happily goes to sleep but won't wake up. Hold down the power switch to force-reboot your machine and get it running again.

DIAGNOSIS: Don't worry—your Mac isn't narcoleptic. Its Open Firmware system or NVRAM (nonvolatile RAM) is likely corrupt, and your Mac can't remember how to wake up.

PRESCRIPTION: Restart your Mac and immediately hold down the Command-Option-O-F key combo until you see a somewhat intimidating command-line display that ends with the Open Firmware prompt. Type the following lines, pressing Return after each one.

```
reset-nvram
set-defaults
reset-all
```

Your Mac will reboot. Once it's running, put it back to sleep to test. If the problem recurs, your Energy Saver preferences may be the culprit. Delete the com.apple.PowerManagement.plist file (/Library/Preferences/SystemConfiguration)—don't worry, your Mac will regenerate a new one—and then restart to see if that rights the wrong. Still didn't work? Time to either tow your Mac to your friendly Apple Store Geniuses, visit an authorized Apple service technician, or call AppleCare (see "Where to Get More Help," p25).



Delete this file to cure your Mac of its waking woes.

PANIC ATTACK

SYMPTOM: Your Mac display goes dim, and a strange, dark screen appears with the power button icon and text in different languages telling you to restart.

DIAGNOSIS: No, your Mac isn't speaking in tongues—it's kernel panicking. The kernel, or core, of its operating system has been given an instruction that it either can't understand or can't execute properly.

PRESCRIPTION: Reboot to clear it. If it happens less than once a month, don't sweat it. If it's more frequent or you get another kernel panic on reboot, you may have bad hardware (such as RAM, or your motherboard or video card) or Mac OS X may be corrupt. First try booting from either another drive or your OS X disc. From there, run Apple's Disk Utility: Open Disk Utility (select Installer › Open Disk Utility), click the First Aid tab, select your boot drive, and click Repair Disk. When that's done, reboot. Didn't work? Try reinstalling OS X. Still no go? Check for bad RAM by using the "Ellen Feiss Syndrome" prescription below. If your Mac—or you—continues to panic, have a Genius or an Apple technician take a look.



This is your Mac on kernel panic. It could be a one-time thing due to a failed virtual memory allocation attempt, or it could be more chronic, resulting from bad RAM.

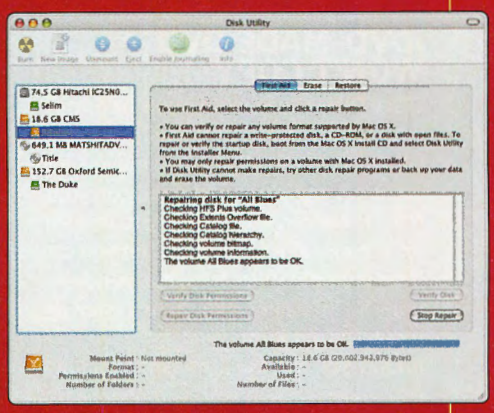
ELLEN FEISS SYNDROME

SYMPTOM: When you turn on your Mac, you hear weird *beep-beep-beep-beep* noises or the sound of breaking glass instead of your usual happy chime, and then your Mac refuses to start up.

DIAGNOSIS: Your Mac has a hardware problem—most likely, it's bad RAM.

PRESCRIPTION: If you hear four beeps or the sound of breaking glass, it's probably RAM. Shut down your Mac, carefully ground yourself (touch your Mac's power supply), open up your machine, and remove any third-party RAM. Then start up again. If the same thing happens, keep removing RAM (after shutting down) or try moving the last RAM chip left standing from one slot to another to isolate the problem.

If that fails, or if you heard more than four beeps, try starting up your Mac from your Mac OS CD (or DVD) and running First Aid. If your Mac still refuses to cooperate, head to the Apple Store or call AppleCare.



Use Disk Utility's First Aid utility to make repairs on a failing boot disk.

Mac Hardware Headaches (cont.)

BOOT CAMP

SYMPTOM: When you boot your Mac, it displays a dialog prompt that reads, "To continue booting, type 'mac-boot' and press return."

DIAGNOSIS: You need to reset your Mac's built-in low-level operating system, Open Firmware. Open Firmware is the first thing your Mac looks at when it boots and is responsible for telling your Mac what to do when it turns on.

PRESCRIPTION: At the screen prompt, type `reset-nvram`, press Return, type `reset-all`, and press Return again.

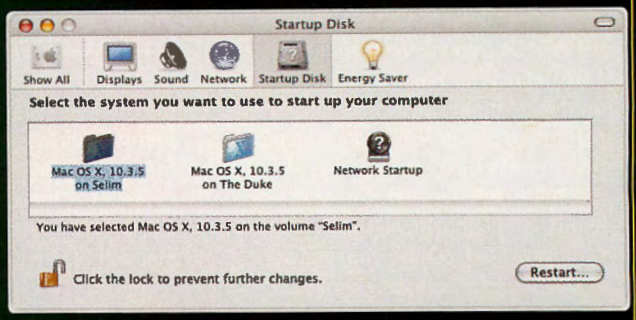
THE PONDERING QUESTION

SYMPTOM: When you turn on your Mac, it displays a flashing question mark or a flashing network globe icon.

DIAGNOSIS: Your Mac either can't find the proper startup disk or doesn't know what to look for.

PRESCRIPTION: If your Mac displays a flashing question mark for a minute, but then starts up normally, it's confused about which startup disk to use. Open System Preferences, click Startup Disk, and select your Mac's startup disk. The next time you restart, all should be well.

If your Mac doesn't start up and just keeps flashing an icon, insert your latest Mac OS disc; your Mac should automatically start up from the disc (if it doesn't, restart and hold down the C key). Select Installer › Disk Utility and run First Aid to repair the disk. Once First Aid finishes running, quit Disk Utility and select Installer › Startup Disk. Choose your hard disk from the lot, and click Restart. That should take care of it. If it doesn't, it's (you guessed it) time to call in the cavalry and head down to your local Apple Store or authorized repair center.



If you see a blinking question mark, remind your Mac which disk to start up from via System Preferences.

DISC PROTESTS

SYMPTOM: Your CD or DVD went into your Mac's drive just fine, but now it refuses to leave. The eject button won't 86 it, and dragging the disc icon to the Trash is futile.

DIAGNOSIS: The disc is stuck. This isn't necessarily a physical problem; a disc can exhibit this bad behavior if your Mac can't read what's on it.

PRESCRIPTION: Restart your Mac. Often times, this will free up whatever was "stuck," softwarewise, and allow you to properly eject the disc by normal means. If that fails, shut down your Mac, wait 30 seconds, and restart while holding down your mouse or trackpad button until the disc spits out.

If that doesn't work, break out a paperclip and pray that your Mac has a teeny manual release hole on the drive—most recent Macs don't. If it does, carefully push in the paperclip, and the disc should pop out. If your Mac doesn't have a hole but has FireWire, shut down your Mac, find another FireWire Mac, connect the two via FireWire, and restart your stuck-disc Mac in target disk mode (hold down the T key as you reboot until you see a FireWire icon). Your stuck-disc Mac's icon should appear on the other Mac's desktop. Open it and navigate to your user Desktop folder, locate the stuck disc, and drag the icon to the secondary Mac's Trash to eject it. Then drag the Mac's icon to the Trash to get it out of target disk mode.

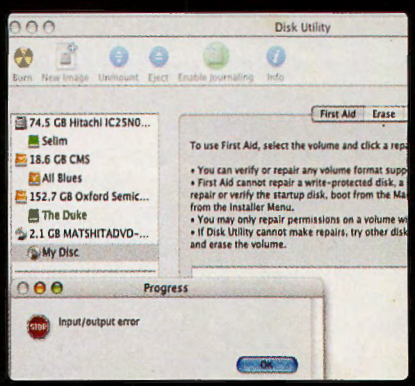
iDVD-MADE DVD WON'T COPY

SYMPTOM: You want to make a copy of your iDVD-created DVD masterpiece, which is chock-full of home movies and pictures, and plays just dandy on your Mac. However, when you try to make a disk image of your DVD so that you can burn multiple DVDs from it, a window pops up informing you there's been an Input/Output Error.

DIAGNOSIS: No, the RIAA isn't claiming copyrights to your work—you've got bad DVD media. While the drives in Power Mac towers are fairly tolerant of cheap media, the drives in 'Books and iMacs are less forgiving.

PRESCRIPTION: We hope that you still have your iDVD project on your drive. Our advice: Buy decent media, burn a new master DVD, and then proceed with copying as usual.

When it comes to recordable DVDs, cheap discs can cause copy errors. Do yourself a favor and splurge a little.



DRIVE AS A DOORNAIL

SYMPTOM: You boot your Mac, but either the Apple logo shows up and won't go away, or a flashing question mark appears. In either case, when you boot from an OS disc to repair your Mac's disk, your Mac doesn't see the hard drive.

DIAGNOSIS: As tough as it might be to hear, the prognosis is negative: Your drive is dead.

PRESCRIPTION: There are a few off-the-wall options that may or may not work. If you can get to the drive, try whacking it with your hand—really!—while your Mac starts up. Sometimes drives suffer from *sticktion*, where the grease on the drive congeals and the drive motor doesn't have the strength to break its grip. If that doesn't work, remove the drive from your Mac and place it in your freezer for at least a half an hour (this may cause the metal parts of the drive to shrink a bit and release either a stuck drive-motor bearing or a drive-head hinge), then reinstall it and hope for the best. If that method fails, there's one last Xtreme Repair trick to try: Bake your drive in a 350-degree oven for about 20 minutes, remove it (use pot holders!), let it cool a bit, and while it's still warm plug it back into your Mac—you don't have to fully install it, just plug it in. If any of these fixes work, copy your stuff from the drive immediately—then buy a new drive. If a drive fails once, it *will* fail again.

If none of these methods work, kiss the drive goodbye and buy a new one. If you *really* need the data, contact TotalRecall.com or DriveSavers.com to see if they can rescue your stuff. But be prepared—they ain't cheap. Expect to spend $1,000 or more, depending on the size of your drive.

CAN'T OPEN: CAN'T OPEN:

SYMPTOM: When you boot your Mac, you see a screen that displays a stream of the text "can't OPEN:" about 50 times in a row, and then the screen goes blank and your Mac boots normally.

DIAGNOSIS: You likely reinstalled your OS from a CD recently, and your Mac is still looking for that disc.

PRESCRIPTION: Make your Mac forget about that CD. Restart your Mac, and immediately hold down Command-Option-O-F until you see a screen with an Open Firmware prompt. Type the following lines, pressing Return after each one.

```
set-defaults
reset-all
```

This should reboot your Mac and rid you of the annoying messages on startup.

OS X Tantrums

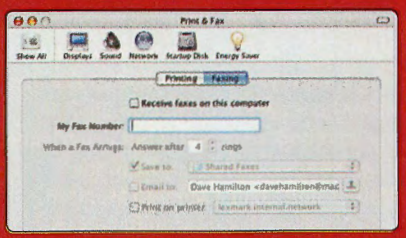
Steve Jobs may have said Apple's goal was to never have Mac OS X crash, but OS X thought different. When the OS gets hung up or starts acting weirdly, here's how to get it back to normal.

OS INSOMNIA

SYMPTOM: You tell your Mac to go to sleep, but like a bratty kid, it refuses.

DIAGNOSIS: If you've set your Mac to receive faxes, it may not be able to sleep. It might also have a damaged preferences file.

PRESCRIPTION: If you use your Mac for faxing, open System Preferences, click Print & Fax, click the Faxing tab, and uncheck the Receive Faxes On This Computer box. If that doesn't work or you've never faxed on your Mac, go to /Library/Preferences/SystemConfiguration and delete the com.apple.PowerManagemet.plist and com.apple.AutoWake.plist files (if your Mac asks, type your admin password). If the latter file isn't present in the folder, go to *user name*/Library/Preferences, delete the com.apple.systemuiserver.plist file, and reboot your Mac.



If your business keeps your Mac from sleeping, disable automatic Fax receipt to let your Mac nap.

Minimum Maintenance

Your Mac may be running like a champ, but that doesn't mean you should ignore preventative maintenance. With a little monthly tune-up, you can squash little inconsistencies before they fester into major, cantankerous problems that take down your whole system. We recommend that you do the following things every month.

Run Software Update Apple releases software updates for a reason. Select Software Update from the Apple menu, and install everything it pulls up that's applicable—for example, ignore Bluetooth updates if you don't have Bluetooth. Yes, these updates can take a long time over a dial-up connection, but they'll save you time in the long run by keeping things running smoothly.

Fix Permissions The OS is supposed to keep this stuff in check, but in reality, it often doesn't. Launch Disk Utility (/Applications/Utilities), select your boot drive, and click Repair Disk Permissions.

Restart Your Mac Some of you strangely leave your Macs running morning, noon, and night. While Mac OS X is quite reliable, we recommend rebooting at least once a month just to ensure that you don't have some renegade process unnecessarily eating up CPU time and memory.

OS X Tantrums (cont.)

GENERIC ICON ASSAULT

SYMPTOM: Icons in Finder windows and on your desktop have taken on a generic, sheet-of-paper look instead of their usual unique adornments.

DIAGNOSIS: Like those armies of middle-aged Hollywood housewives who Botox, tummy-tuck, and bottle-blonde themselves into Barbie-doll genericdom, your Mac is, well, confused. OS X likes to save itself the trouble of looking up every icon each time it displays a file, so it looks up each icon once and then caches it. Sometimes the cache gets corrupted, causing your Mac to display icons differently. The problem is that it'll remember this new look until you tell it to forget about it.

PRESCRIPTION: Go to *user name*/Library/Icons, delete the contents in the Icons folder (but not the folder itself), and reboot your Mac. If that doesn't work, try running Cocktail ($14.95, www.macosxcocktail.com), and tell it to clean your caches. This allows the system to rebuild its temporary files from scratch. A preventative solution is to install Panic's CandyBar ($12.95, www.panic.com), which circumvents OS X's fussy icon cache altogether.



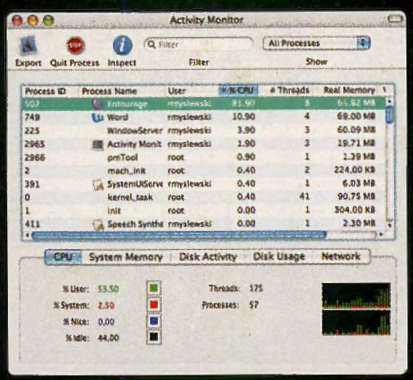
If a generic-icon army has invaded your desktop, dump the Icons folder contents and restart to get your Finder icons back in line.

LAZY MAC

SYMPTOM: Your Mac isn't as snappy as it used to be. Finder windows take a long time to redraw, and things in general seem lethargic.

DIAGNOSIS: When your Mac is hard at work, the OS often shields you from seeing what it's doing by displaying nothing, which leads you to believe that nothing's happening. Antivirus software, Microsoft Word, or even a heavily animated Web page sitting in the background (or in another Safari tab) can slow down your Mac.

PRESCRIPTION: First, reboot and see if things improve—especially if you're the type who leaves your Mac on 24/7. If you've rebooted recently but experience sluggishness, go to /Applications/Utilities and launch Activity Monitor (pre-Panther OS Xers should launch Process Viewer). To see which apps are hogging processor power, click the CPU tab, and then click the % CPU column (you may have to select Monitor › Show Activity Monitor first). If you spot any processor piggies you aren't using, quit them (select the app and click Quit Process). Background apps and desktop toys often provoke slowdowns—it's easy to forget them if they're designated Startup Items. Next, click the Real Memory column head to view memory hogs. An app's memory allocation can get bloated over time (especially Safari), but you can bring it down to normal levels by simply quitting and relaunching the culprit. Finally, click the System Memory tab and feast your eyeballs on the Free listing, which shows the amount of its memory your Mac isn't using. If it's less than 20MB, quit some apps.



If your OS stands for *obnoxiously slow*, Panther's Activity Monitor lets you target processor hogs.

Some believe that OS X's Unix roots allow you to open applications without ever needing to quit them and that virtual memory manages everything for you. While theoretically true, we don't subscribe to this way of thinking. Mac OS will use your hard drive to swap out program segments if your RAM usage exceeds what you have installed, and that can really bog you down. The bottom line: Quit apps you don't use frequently.

If quitting apps doesn't help, run Cocktail (see "Enlist Some Help," facing page) and let it clear out the sludge Mac OS has accumulated over time. If that doesn't work, try creating a new admin account and see how it performs compared to your main account. If it's faster, compare the two accounts to discover possible sources for your system's grief, such as that monster-sized photo you set as your main account's desktop picture.

USER LOGIN AMNESIA

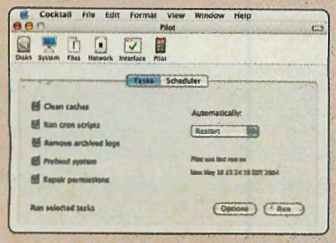
SYMPTOM: You're freaking out, pulling your hair, biting your nails, and typing password after password into the login dialog, but your Mac ignores you. Your roommate, significant other, kid, or dog must have changed your login password, and now you can't get into your Mac!

DIAGNOSIS: Sure, it's not your fault. We believe you. D'oh! Somebody forgot their password.

PRESCRIPTION: Insert your Mac OS X CD, and reboot your Mac while holding down the C key. When the installer screen appears, select Installer › Reset Password and follow the instructions to set things back to normal. This time, burn that password into your brain!

Enlist Some Help

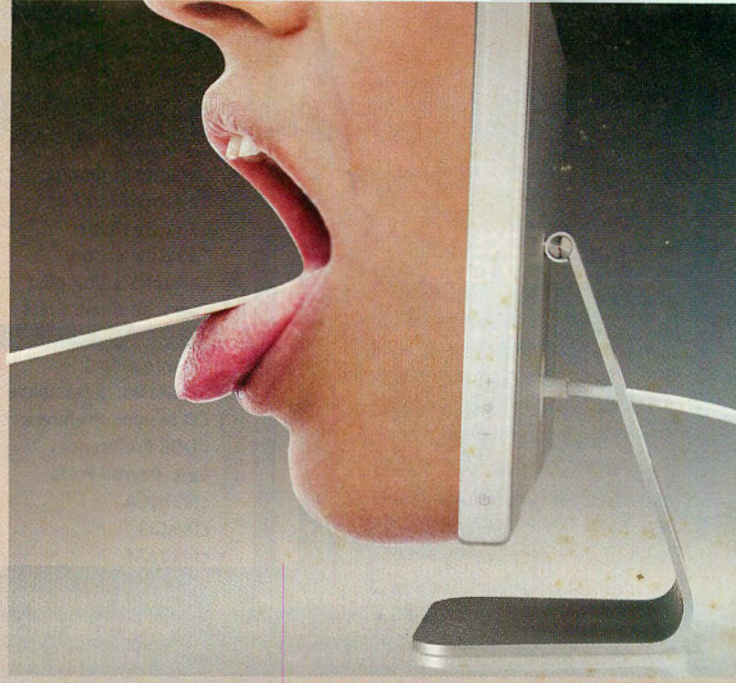
Though Mac OS X can take care of most of its own problems, we like and regularly use two utilities for two different reasons—the first for maintenance, the second for emergency use. We highly recommend having both at the ready.



Cocktail is a definite must-have for any Mac OS X user.

Cocktail ($14.95, www.macosxcocktail.com) One of the best of the shareware bunch, Cocktail is a great, all-purpose maintenance app that takes care of a lot of the behind-the-scenes stuff on your Mac. It can repair permissions, clean caches, prebind your system, run cron scripts, and do other optimizing and maintenance tasks manually or at scheduled times.

DiskWarrior ($79.95, www.alsoft.com) DiskWarrior has saved our lives. After booting from a CD or external drive, this app scours your main drive and rebuilds and optimizes the directory from scratch (as opposed to just patching it like other utilities do). We think it's the most complete, reliable, and trustworthy disk-repair utility available. If your own tinkering isn't fixing the problem, DiskWarrior is the way to go.





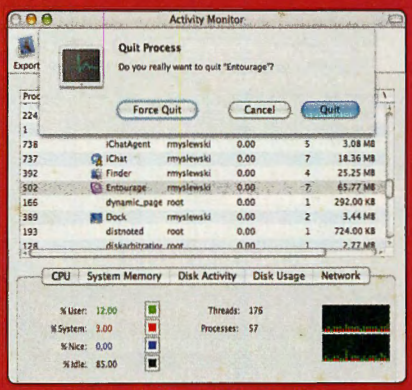
If your Mac is acting funky, DiskWarrior is your best bet for getting things whipped back into shape.

SHUT DOWN SHOWDOWN

SYMPTOM: You tell your Mac to shut down—some applications quit, but then your system just goes on with life as usual and doesn't shut down.

DIAGNOSIS: Something is likely running—an app is in the middle of doing something or some other system-related process is going on—that's keeping your Mac active.

PRESCRIPTION: Launch Activity Monitor (or Process Viewer if you're running a pre-Panther OS X). If you see any active applications besides Activity Monitor (items with icons next to the name), select them, and click Quit Process. If an app won't quit by clicking Quit, click Force Quit. Then try shutting down again. If your Mac still refuses, start killing off system-managed programs (items without icons). Be sure to quit only the programs your user account is running; don't quit anything identified as *root* or *nobody* in the User column)—and whatever you do, don't quit any of the following: loginwindow, WindowServer, ATSServer, or SystemUIServer, which make up the foundation of Mac OS. Quit one process at a time, and then shut down after each kill until you find success.



Mac won't shut down? Use Activity Monitor to force-quit defiant processes that are keeping the system active.

DISOBEDIENT DISK IMAGES

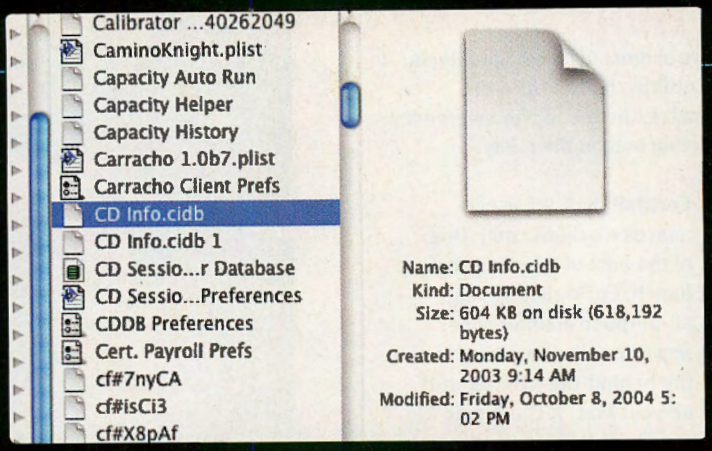
SYMPTOM: Whenever you try to mount a disk image, you get an error instead of a mounted volume. Restarting, repairing permissions, and cursing haven't done a thing.

DIAGNOSIS: The problem is most likely an OS X extension pickle. OS X builds a cache of all app and system extensions to expedite startup, and if this cache gets funked up, it can cause this problem.

PRESCRIPTION: Go to /System/Library and delete the Extensions.kextcache and Extensions.mkext files. Then go to /System/Library/Caches, and delete the com.apple.kernelcaches folder. Next, reboot; your Mac will rebuild these caches during startup, which should resolve the problem. If you still can't mount the disk image, go to *user name*/Library/Preferences and delete the com.apple.LaunchServices.plist file. Reboot again and test out the file. Your Mac won't mount Everest, but it should mount your disk image.

OS X Tantrums (cont.)

HIJACKED AUDIO CDS



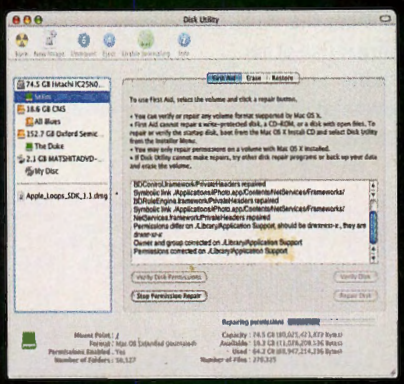
If your Mac is depriving you of musical enjoyment, delete this file to allow your Mac to see audio CDs again.

SYMPTOM: You enjoy the sound of music, but when you insert an audio CD, your Mac says it can't read the disc. And no, it's not Celine Dion or some other infuriating RIAA-shielded copy-protected disc.

DIAGNOSIS: Your Mac's cached song-list file is damaged. Whenever you insert an audio CD, the system checks the disc against the cached list of audio CDs it has seen, so that it can display song titles and so forth. If this list is damaged, you'll encounter this problem whether or not your Mac has seen it before.

PRESCRIPTION: Delete the damaged file and let your Mac rebuild it. Go to *user name*/Library/Preferences, delete the CD Info.cidb file, and reboot your Mac.

PESKY PERMISSION PROBLEMS



Repair your Mac's disk permissions on your boot drive if you're having problems modifying contents in Application folders.

SYMPTOM: Every time you add or remove something from the Applications folder, the OS asks for your password to authorize the task or tells you that you don't have permission to do it.

DIAGNOSIS: Unlike strict parents, you can coax the Mac OS into changing its mind. When hard-disk permissions get out of sync with the system, your Mac will ask for authorization when it comes across an access discrepancy.

PRESCRIPTION: Your Mac isn't your mother, so feel free to defy it and fix your permissions. Launch Disk Utility (/Applications/Utilities). Select your boot drive, click the First Aid tab, and then click Repair Disk Permissions. Once it's done, reboot your Mac for business as usual.

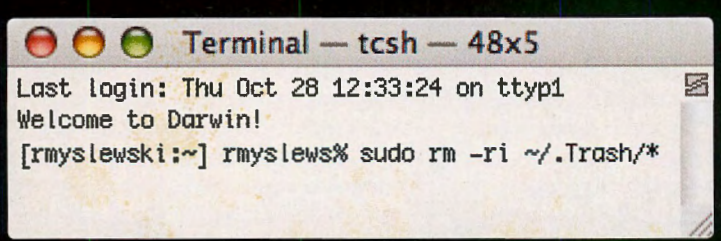
TRASH TALK

SYMPTOM: You keep trying to empty the Trash, but your Mac keeps saying you can't.

DIAGNOSIS: This is not a Trash-half-full kind of optimistic moment. There are a few reasons why the Trash disobeys: A file (or files) in the Trash may be locked or still in use, you may not have sufficient permissions to modify certain files (including dumping them), or your Mac may simply be confused.

PRESCRIPTION: If your Mac complains that a file is locked or that you don't have sufficient privileges, hold down the Option key as you select Empty Trash in the Finder menu, and it should plow through minor obstacles. If that doesn't work, head to the command line—launch the Terminal (/Applications/Utilities). There are different ways of getting rid of your rubbish from the command line, but here's the end-all, be-all solution. Be careful; one small typo in the Terminal (especially when deleting files), and it's curtains for your system and data.

At the Terminal prompt, type `sudo` (space) `rm -ri ~/.Trash/*`. Double-check your syntax with our screenshot (below, left) to make sure you typed the command perfectly. Press Return. When asked for your password, type it and press Return again. The system then picks through the Trash and asks for confirmation before permanently removing each file. Assuming you want to delete a file, type y for yes after each query, and press Return. If you come across something you don't want to dump, type n for no, and press Return. When there's nothing left to in the Trash, the Terminal will stop asking questions.



If emptying the Trash results in stubborn resistance, employ the Terminal and force the job using this command.

Peripheral Problems

From mice to printers to FireWire devices, disobedient devices are grounds for a good, stiff headache. Before you break out the Macallan Single Malt 18 Year to drown your troubles, take a gander at these fixes (and send us your bottle as a small token of your appreciation).

SKITTISH MICE

SYMPTOM: When you move your mouse, your cursor jumps all over the place.
DIAGNOSIS: If you have an Apple Pro Mouse or a wireless mouse, your cursor may move erratically for different reasons. The Pro Mouse tracks a bit differently than other optical mice and is more sensitive to its tracking surface; it may not like the surface it's sitting on. With wireless mice, the problem is most likely a dying battery.
PRESCRIPTION: Pro Mousers: Place your mouse on a patternless or nonreflective surface (glass tops are bad choices)—or just get a new mouse. Wireless (Bluetooth or RF) mousers: Replace or recharge your batteries. If this doesn't work, re-pair your mouse with your Mac using either the Apple Bluetooth utility or the mouse manufacturer's utility (whichever is appropriate) to reestablish communication.

PRINTING PAINS

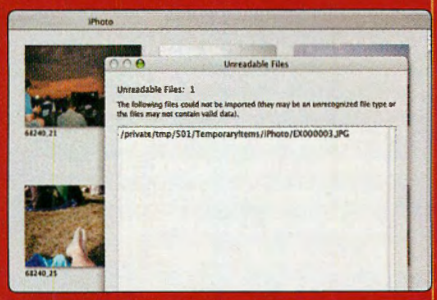
SYMPTOM: When you try to print, your Mac spools the data, but nothing comes out of your printer. And yeah, you've checked to make sure that the printer is on, plugged into your Mac, and all that.
DIAGNOSIS: You probably need to reset Mac OS X's printing subsystem (called CUPS—common Unix printing system).
PRESCRIPTION: First, check the printer's jobs to make sure there's nothing in the queue holding it up—open Printer Setup Utility (/Applications/Utilities) and in the Printer List window, double-click your printer. If you see any jobs listed, select them, click Delete, and try printing again. If you still can't print, go back to the Printer List, select your printer, and click Delete. Then re-add your printer: Click Add, choose your printer type, and follow the prompts. Try printing again. If that doesn't work, try printing to a different printer (or from a different Mac) to isolate faulty hardware. If your Mac is the culprit, it's down to the Apple Store you go. If your printer is sick, call the shop—or consider replacing the printer, since most inkjets aren't worth the cost of repair.



Printer not printing? Use the Printer Setup Utility to whip it back into shape.

CAMERA COPY COP-OUT

SYMPTOM: As you download images from your camera, iPhoto says you have unreadable files and stops the process.
DIAGNOSIS: Your camera's memory card has one or more corrupt images. This often happens when your camera runs out of juice right as (or after) you take a picture.
PRESCRIPTION: First, note the offending file number in the error dialog and look for its predecessor in your Last Roll import. Use your camera's playback mode to find that photo; the one that follows is the corrupt one—erase it in the camera. Then resume download. If that doesn't work, create a new Finder folder, double-click the camera icon on your desktop, and drag all of its image files into the new folder to copy them. From there, you can manually add images one by one to your iPhoto library or toss any that iPhoto deems unreadable. Finally, reformat your memory card in-camera to prevent another fiasco.



Don't fret if iPhoto says you have an unreadable file. Just delete the offender and resume download.



Peripheral Problems (cont.)

UNMOUNTABLE FIREWIRE DRIVES

SYMPTOM: You installed Apple's latest OS X update, and now your Mac doesn't see your external FireWire drives.

DIAGNOSIS: This issue can rear its ugly head if you updated your Mac while your FireWire drives (including your iPod) were plugged in.

PRESCRIPTION: Disconnect all of your FireWire drives, download the latest combined updater from Apple's site (www.apple.com/support)—not from Software Update—install it, reboot your Mac, and then reattach your FireWire drives. Your Mac should mount them.

I CAN'T SEE MY iPOD

SYMPTOM: You have a PowerBook or iBook with a FireWire drive hogging its one port, so you plugged your iPod into your 'Book using its included USB 2.0 cable—but your 'Book acts like your iPod isn't there.

DIAGNOSIS: Apple originally built the iPod's USB connection to accommodate Windows users and didn't offer USB-to-iPod Mac support until Mac OS 10.3.4.

PRESCRIPTION: Update your Mac to the latest version of Panther (10.3.5 at press time).

Software Issues

When one of your daily go-to apps misbehaves, it can cripple your productivity like a cast on your leg when you're trying to run a marathon. If you're apps are hurting, we're here to play Dr. Feelgood.

SAFARI UNEXPECTEDLY QUITS

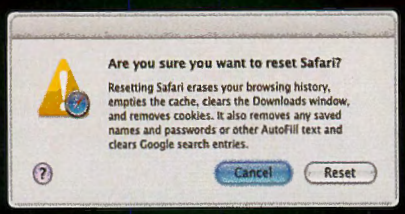
SYMPTOM: You are surfing in Safari, and the app quits without warning.

DIAGNOSIS: Safari relies on a lot of operating-system components to run in sync. When something is out of whack, Safari may just give up and quit.

PRESCRIPTION: If you installed HP printer-driver software on your Mac, it's possible that a font—namely, Times RO—is causing Safari to hang or quit. To remove the offending font, quit Safari, remove Times RO from /Library/Fonts and *user name*/Library/Fonts, and then relaunch the browser. This same method can also clear up premature quit problems with Mail, Software Update, and some third-party installers.

If you don't have Times RO, or if Safari still quits when you visit a page that requires a QuickTime plug-in (say you're viewing movie trailers or listening to MP3s), your QuickTime preferences file may be damaged. Quit Safari, go to *user name*/Library/Preferences, and delete the com.apple.quicktime.plugin.preferences .plist file. Then relaunch Safari and test.

If Safari still refuses to play nice, reset it by selecting Safari › Reset Safari. You'll see a warning that resetting Safari "...erases your browsing history, empties the cache, clears the Downloads window, and removes cookies. It also removes any saved names and passwords or other AutoFill text and clears Google search entries." If that's OK with you, click Reset.



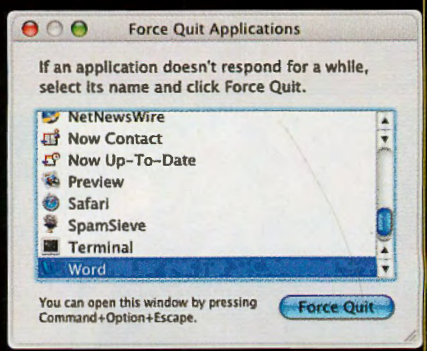
If all else fails, reset Safari to hamper unpredictable quit fits.

SPINNING BEACH BALL OF DEATH

SYMPTOM: Suddenly everything grinds to a halt, and your Mac focuses on nothing other than spinning that damn beach ball.

DIAGNOSIS: This happens when a process eats up so much of the CPU that your Mac simply can't handle processing anything else.

PRESCRIPTION: First, wait it out. Some apps, such as those from Microsoft, can cause the beach ball to spin for up to two minutes before relinquishing control. If you don't want to wait, press Command-Option-Escape and force-quit the unresponsive app. If that doesn't work, most likely one of the low-level system processes is hung up. Your only option is to force-reboot your machine, either by shutting it down, waiting 30 seconds, and then turning it back on, or by pressing Command-Control–power button. If this happens frequently, you could have a flaky RAM chip. Troubleshooting your RAM as we discussed in the "Ellen Feiss Syndrome" section (see p17) is the next option.



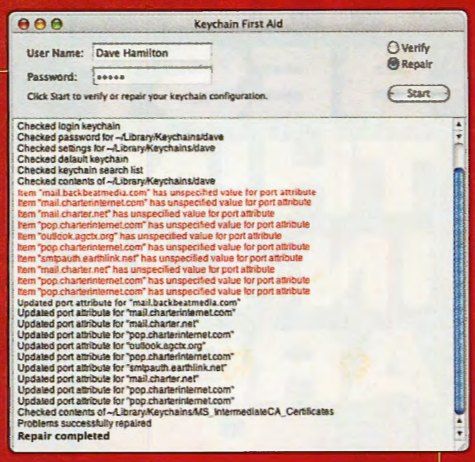
Force-quitting applications can relieve you of your Mac's spinning beach ball circus act.

THE FORGETFUL GATEKEEPER

SYMPTOM: Mail, iChat, or iDisk keeps asking for your password. You keep telling it to remember your password, but it never does—and it keeps pestering you.

DIAGNOSIS: Your Mac's Keychain file is damaged.

PRESCRIPTION: Repair the Keychain file. Download Apple's free Keychain First Aid utility from http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=107234. Then mount the disk image and launch Keychain First Aid. In the resulting interface, type your user name and password in the appropriate fields, select Repair, and then click Start. Once it's finished, your Keychain should have the memory of an elephant.



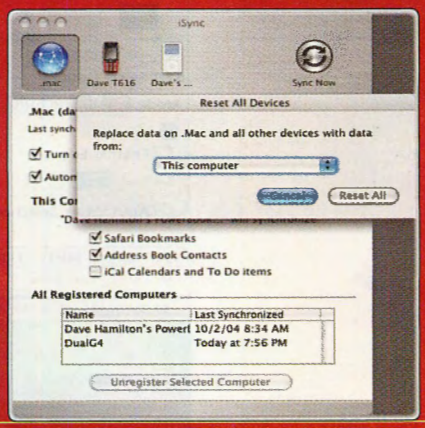
If your Mac inundates you with pointless password prompts, use the Keychain First Aid utility to repair your Keychain.

iSYNC IS NOT IN SYNC

SYMPTOM: You use iSync to keep your work and home Macs in sync, but suddenly your work Mac tells you it's going to add a whopping ton of bookmarks that you know you didn't add at home.

DIAGNOSIS: iSync is out of whack and has lost its footing on real data after syncing it to multiple Macs many times.

PRESCRIPTION: Tell iSync to forget everything it knows and repopulate its data from one master Mac. Choose one of your Macs and make sure it's up to date. Then launch iSync on that machine, and select Devices › Reset All Devices. In the resulting dialog, select This Computer from the pop-up menu and click Reset All, which will resync all devices to your master. Then carry on as usual.



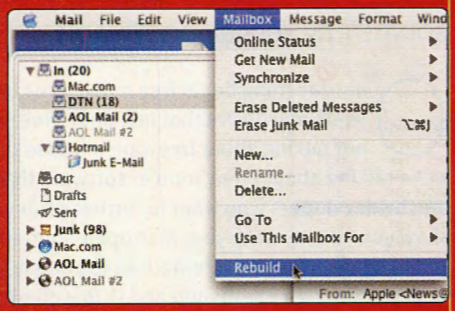
When iSync gets out of sync, reset all of your devices to one master Mac to get it back on track.

MISSING MAIL

SYMPTOM: You're a regular pack rat when it comes to email, with more than 1,000 messages. But the last time you opened Mail, every message was gone—nothing, zilch, zero! What the #@*%! And you didn't even *think* to back up this stuff.

DIAGNOSIS: Relax. Chances are, your mail is still there. Apple's Mail app, like many other data-intensive programs, stores a separate index for each mailbox to expedite searching and browsing. If this index gets damaged, Mail may display nothing.

PRESCRIPTION: Make Mail rebuild the index. In Mail, select the problematic mailbox. If you have multiple mail accounts, click the disclosure triangle next to the parent mailbox and select an individual sub-mailbox. Then select Mailbox › Rebuild. When it's finished, quit Mail and then relaunch it to ogle your messages again.



Lost mail? Have Mail rebuild its mailboxes to recover apparently missing messages.

Where to Get More Help

Face it. Sometimes there are problems you just can't fix on your own. If you try the solutions here, run a few disk utilities, check online at Apple Support, MacFixIt.com, and MacOSXHints.com, and still can't find the answer your problem, it might be time to turn it over to the big boys in Cupertino—or at least to their local agents.

Take yourself and your Mac to your local Apple Store for some free, immediate help from a Genius (who will charge you only if they need to send your Mac in for repair), or to a certified Apple technician. If there's no help close by, call AppleCare at 800-275-2273, which provides free help if your Mac's still under warranty or help for a fee if it isn't. Alternately, the Apple Consultants Network (http://consultants.apple.com) can put you in touch with someone who can drop by your home or office to help cure your Mac.



Dave Hamilton, President of The Mac Observer, likes to spend his free time laughing about how lucky we Mac users are that he didn't have to include one sentence about "Spyware" in this article.

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE...



If you want no-cost, powerful apps that rival the commercial big boys, meet open source. *by Johnathon Williams*

Only one thing beats free music, free love, and free beer (well, maybe not that last one): free software. We're not talking about freeware or those damn AOL discs; we're talking about open source, software that's released for free by developers who want to further its development. We show you how to make your Mac open-source ready, introduce you to some awesome alternatives to commercial apps, and walk you through Photoshop and Office alternatives.

WHAT IS OPEN SOURCE?

Open-source software differs from freeware in that developers make its source code freely available—open—to everyone. Anyone can improve the code, and anyone can redistribute it and sell their versions for profit in accordance with the founding Open Source Initiative (www.opensource.org) and the GNU Public License (GPL; www.gnu.org). But many Mac OS X open-source apps require an X Window System to run.

An X Window System is a graphical front end like Aqua for Unix-based operating systems—including OS X's Darwin. Apple created its own X Window System: X11 for Mac OS X. We help you install it (see "Make Your Mac Open-Source Friendly," p29), but first here are a few good reasons why you should.

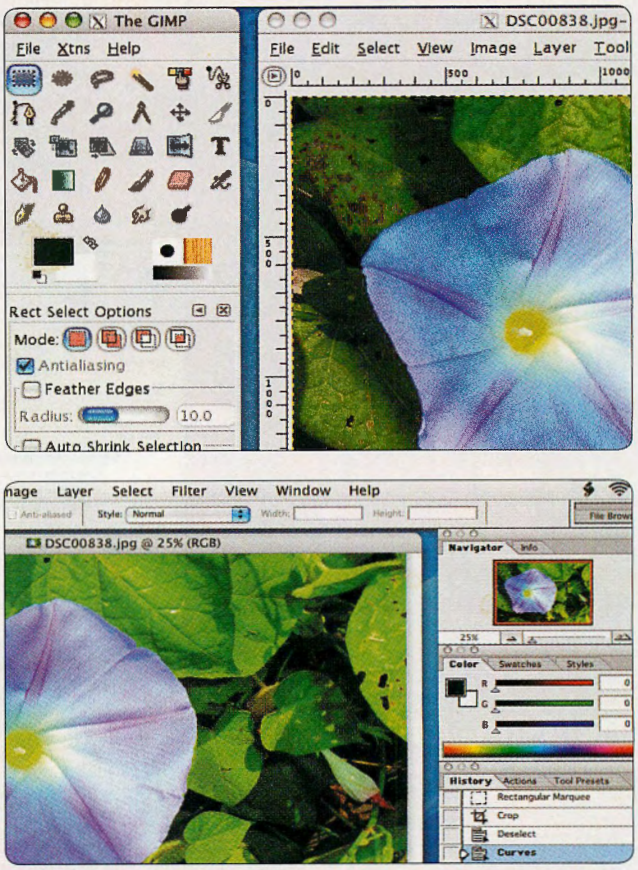
ON THE DISC

Cyberduck 2.3.3, jEdit 4.2, OpenOffice.org 1.1.3, GIMP 2.0.5, and more

AWESOME ALTERNATIVES

There are tons of open-source apps available, and while most are comparable to one-trick pony shareware utilities, there are also open-source alternatives to major applications—here are a few heavyweight open-source contenders and their pricey, well-known equivalents.

GIMP VS. ADOBE PHOTOSHOP CS



GIMP (top) doesn't skimp on features and can hold its own against Photoshop CS (bottom)—unless your work involves publishing.

GIMP GNU Image Manipulation Program is a worthy competitor to Photoshop CS (●●●●○ Feb/04, p44) for image editing. It offers many of the same advanced features, such as tools for fixing and enhancing photos, compositing images, converting file formats, and designing documents. It includes painting tools such as brush, pencil, airbrush, and clone; selection tools such as ellipse, marquee, lasso, and magic wand; and manipulation features such as layer support, paths, alpha channels, masking, and multiple undo and redo. It also supports text, channels, plug-ins, Bézier tools, and animation. GIMP installs directly in X11.

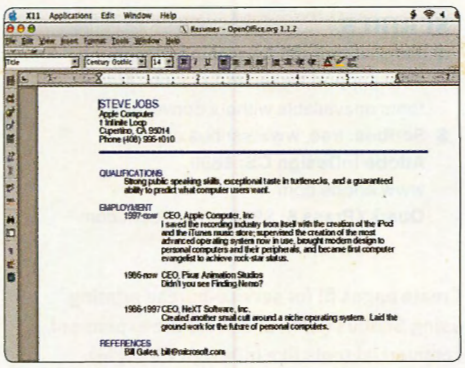
GIMP

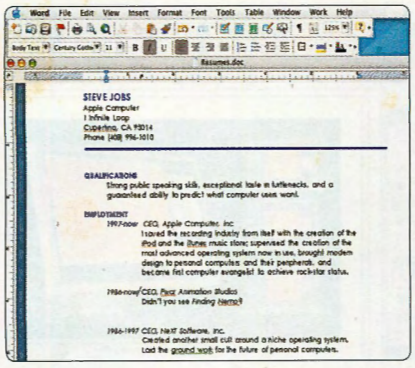
↑ Amazingly full-featured tool set. Photoshop compatibility. Terrific collection of automated effects.

↓ Initially awkward interface. No direct CMYK mode. Automation more difficult than using Photoshop Actions.

$ **GIMP:** free, www.gimp.org
Adobe Photoshop CS: $649, www.adobe.com

OPENOFFICE VS. MICROSOFT OFFICE 2004





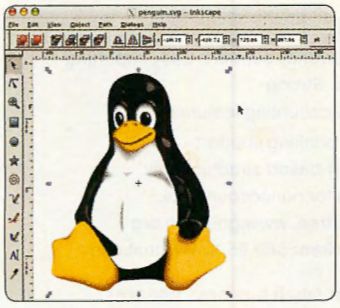
OPENOFFICE

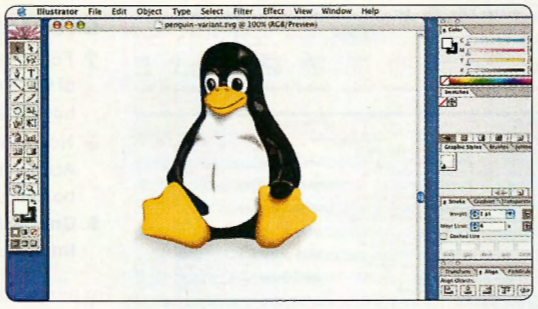
- ↑ Strong word processing and spreadsheet capabilities. Compatible with Microsoft Office documents. Easy automation with macros.
- ↓ Impress is no match for PowerPoint. Entourage equivalent is MIA.
- $ **OpenOffice:** free, www.openoffice.org
 Microsoft Office: $399, www.microsoft.com

For you Microsoft bashers, hope comes in the form of OpenOffice.org (left), which offers open-source counterparts to most Redmond-source applications (Word 2004, right).

The only way to get some business die-hards to part with Microsoft Office 2004 (●●●●○ Aug/04, p42) is to pry it from their cold, dead fingers. OpenOffice.org, however, provides a compelling alternative for the more open-minded. Like Office, OpenOffice.org is a suite of productivity apps that includes Writer (comparable to Word) for word processing, Calc (comparable to Excel) for spreadsheet and chart-making projects, Impress (comparable to PowerPoint) for creating and showcasing multimedia presentations, Draw (no Office equivalent) for making quick sketches and diagrams, and Database User Tools (no Office equivalent) to manage mountains of information in a database. OpenOffice.org installs directly in X11.

INKSCAPE VS. ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR OR CORELDRAW





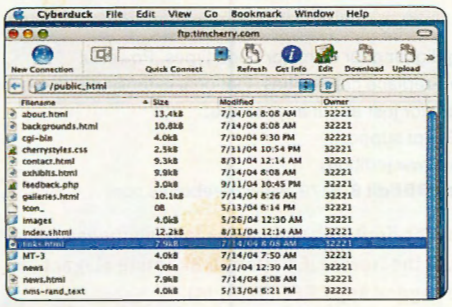
INKSCAPE

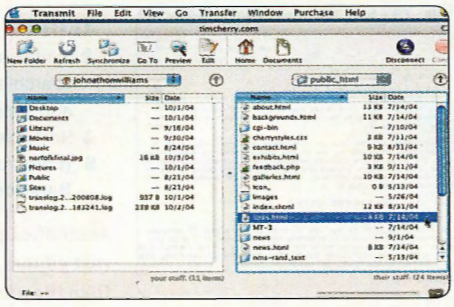
- ↑ Powerful basic tool set. XML-based file format offers compatibility with other programs. Clean interface.
- ↓ No advanced tools. Scarce documentation compared to Illustrator. Buggy.
- $ **Inkscape:** free, www.inkscape.org
 CorelDraw: $399, www.corel.com

Illustrator CS (right) has more tools, butInkscape (left) is capable, and its price tag is *nada*.

Vector graphics are Illustrator's bread and butter, but Inkscape is a raw, meaty alternative for those who don't mind getting their hands dirty. Like Illustrator CS (●●●●○ Mar/04, p42) and CorelDraw Graphics Suite 11 (●●●●○ Mar/03, p51), Inkscape lets you create and edit complex Scalable Vector Graphics SVG artwork. It features a basic toolkit and a library of shapes, and allows you to make paths, add text with kerning and gradients, do pattern fills, and autotrace. You won't find Illustrator's advanced text-composition controls, lighting effects, or 3D support, but you won't find its price tag either. Use Fink (see "Make Your Mac Open-Source Friendly," p29) to install in X11.

CYBERDUCK VS. PANIC TRANSMIT





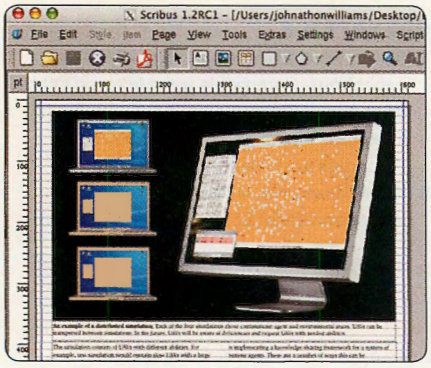
CYBERDUCK

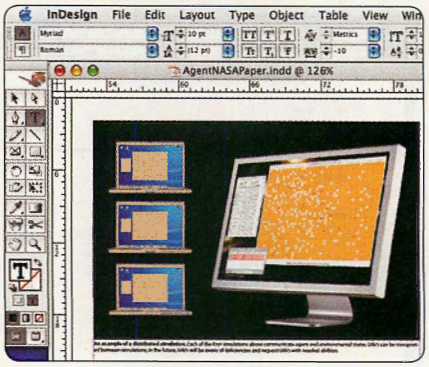
- ↑ Supports secure and standard file transfers. Integrates with popular text editors such as BBEdit.
- ↓ Interface is inferior to Transmit.
- $ **Cyberduck:** free, http://cyberduck.ch
 Panic Transmit: $24.95, www.panic.com

If you're graphically inclined, Cyberduck (left) gives you the same powers as Transmit (right) for free.

Your Mac offers built-in FTP capabilities via the Terminal. But you have other FTP options: Transmit rules the roost when it comes to FTP programs, but Cyberduck offers 90 percent of the features for 0 (zero) percent of the cost. Yeah, we know Transmit is technically shareware, but all good Mac addicts pay for their shareware. Like Transmit, Cyberduck allows secure file transfers via SSH, features an FTP browser, and supports multiple connections, drag and drop, Keychain, and Rendezvous. Plus, this duck quacks fine in Aqua.

SCRIBUS VS. ADOBE INDESIGN CS OR QUARKXPRESS





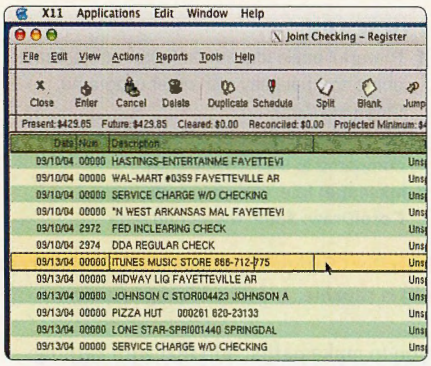
SCRIBUS

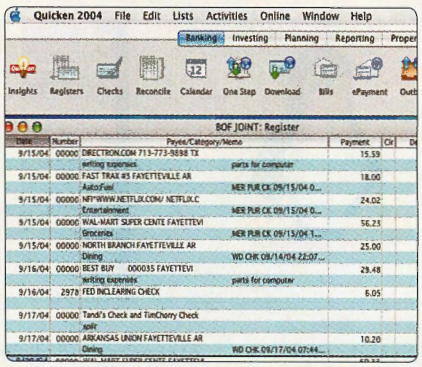
- ↑ Familiar tool set. Awesome PDF support.
- ↓ Font support limited to X11 fonts; Mac fonts unavailable without conversion.
- $ **Scribus:** free, www.scribus.org.uk
 Adobe InDesign CS: $699, www.adobe.com
 QuarkXPress 6: $945, www.quark.com

Create pages fit for service-bureau printing using Scribus (left), and avoid the expense of commercial tools like InDesign CS (right).

Commercial software has enjoyed a lockout on professional layout programs for many years, but Scribus is poised to change that. Like InDesign CS (●●●●○ Feb/04, p46) and QuarkXPress (●●●○○ Sep/03, p42), Scribus allows you to creatively weave graphics and words to design professional pages for publishing. It features many of the same tools as the big boys, offers vector-drawing tools, and supports CMYK, color separations, ICC color management, PDF, scripting, and more. However, it still has room for improvement, especially regarding text handling: It lacks the ability to import styled text—a must for publishing pros. Use Fink to install in X11.

GNUCASH VS. INTUIT QUICKEN 2005





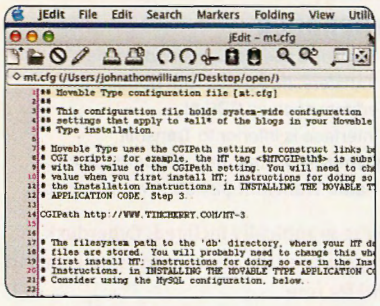
GNUCASH

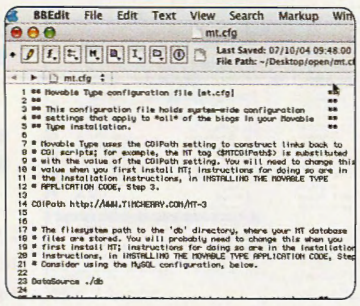
- ↑ Foreign currency support. Easy importing of QIF files. Strong business-accounting features.
- ↓ No online banking support. Accounting-based structure may be difficult for nonaccountants.
- $ **GnuCash:** free, www.gnucash.org
 Intuit Quicken: $69.95, www.intuit.com

For personal or small business finances, GnuCash (left) offers comprehensive tools for less than Quicken 2005 (right).

Quicken 2005 (●●●○○ Dec/04, p42) may be the standard bearer for personal finance on the Mac, but GnuCash will track your money without demanding that you part with some of it too. Like Quicken, GnuCash features tools to schedule recurring transactions for all your personal needs, set up and keep track of mortgage and loan payments, and handle all facets of small business accounting, including invoicing, customer and vendor tracking, and payments. Use Fink to install in X11.

JEDIT VS. BAREBONES BBEDIT 8





JEDIT

- ↑ Syntax highlighting for all major code types. Powerful search-and-replace capabilities. Optional extensions add support for just about any feature.
- ↓ No AppleScript support.
- $ **jEdit:** free, www.jedit.org
 BareBones BBEdit 8, $179, www.barebones.com

Aesthetics aren't priority when it comes to powerhouse text editors, but the freebie jEdit (left) looks more elegant than the price-tagged app BBEdit 8 (right).

Text editors may be a dime a dozen, but only a few qualify as legitimate power apps—and jEdit is among them. Like the ol' stalwart BBEdit (●●●●○ p36), jEdit features syntax highlighting (it supports over 130 file types), keyboard shortcuts for practically everything, unlimited undo and redo, markers, unlimited clipboards, word wrapping, and more. Even better, its Java-based code runs right on top of Aqua—no X11 needed.



PHOTOGRAPH BY PETE MCARTHUR/VEER

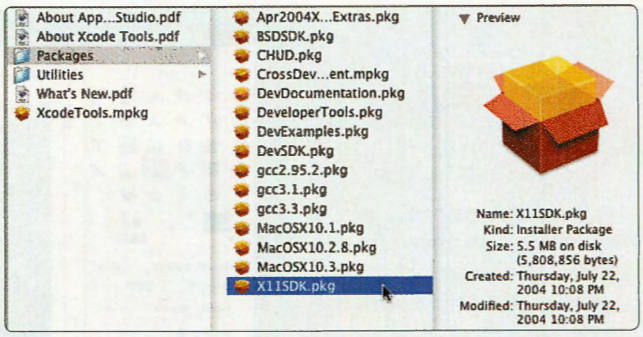
MAKE YOUR MAC OPEN SOURCE FRIENDLY

Before you start stockpiling free open-source apps, install an X Windows System on your Mac. Don't worry—it's easy, and the required software is free. You need a Power Mac G3 or faster, 256MB RAM, Mac OS 10.3, plus the following:

Xcode Tools (free, install from the Panther Developer CD or download from http://developer.apple.com/macosx)
X11 for Mac OS X (free, www.apple.com/macosx/features/x11/download)
X11 for Mac OS X SDK (free, optional part of Xcode Tools—install from the Panther Developer CD or the Xcode Tools download)
Fink (free, http://fink.sourceforge.net)

If you're running Mac OS 10.1 or 10.2, don't growl; you can play too—just not with Apple's X11 (Apple dropped Jaguar support from its X11 implementation when the app graduated from beta status). Fans of that particular spotted cat need to install Developer Tools (Apple's predecessor to Xcode) and Fink, and then use Fink to install XFree86, an open-source version of the X Windows System. For more information about installing and using XFree86, visit www.xfree86.org.

For you Panther people, install all the software as you normally would, except for Fink. Install the Fink package from the disk image you download. Why do you need Fink? Simple: software dependencies. Y'see, while we Mac users are used to simple installation procedures that take care of everything, open-source apps are often distributed without the additional support files they need to run. Fink solves this problem by automatically downloading all dependent files when you install open-source software. When finished, drag the FinkCommander app (from its eponymous folder on the disk image) to your Applications folder. Alrighty, let's launch some apps!



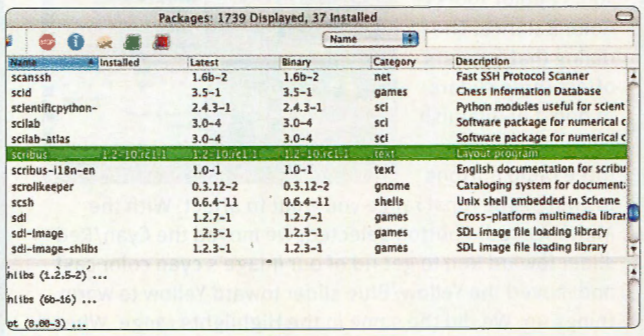
Despite its name, Apple's X11 SDK is not part of the X11 for Mac OS X download—find it as an extra install on your Xcode Tools CD or download.

DEPLOY THE APPS

Let's start with GIMP, which you can install into X11 without Fink (download it from http://gimp-app.sourceforge.net). Open its disk image, drag the app icon into your Applications folder, and double-click the icon to install. Once it's finished, GIMP opens in X11, which functions similarly to Aqua—though there are differences. Each application's menubar is contained within its own window, Windows-style. Also, open-source apps generally use Control-key shortcuts, and not Command- or Option-key shortcuts. To quit GIMP, close the window or press Control-Q (pressing Command-Q will quit X11).

To install apps that require Fink, don't download them via your Web browser—use Fink instead. Launch FinkCommander; a window appears, displaying a list of current apps available to install. Select an app, and click the install binary package(s) button (the icon with the blue plus sign), which installs a ready-to-roll package. Always choose this option it it's available. If it's grayed out, click the install package(s) from source button (the icon with the green plus sign), which downloads the program's raw source code and compiles it. Either way, the download and install process can take a while, depending on the app's size and complexity, so go grab a snack. When you see the word *Done* at the bottom of the window, FinkCommander has finished.

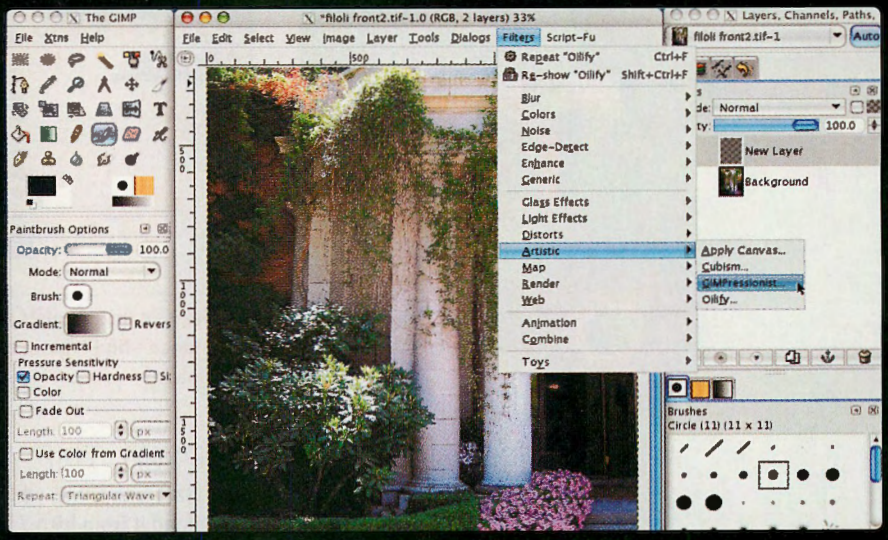
Fink puts compiled applications in /sw/bin. To launch an app in X11, first launch X11 (/Applications/Utilities/X11). In the Xterm window that appears (which looks like the Terminal window), type the path to your desired app. For example, if you installed Scribus via Fink, type **/sw/bin/scribus**, and press Return.



FinkCommander is an installation portal to open-source's offerings—from games to scientific computing modules.

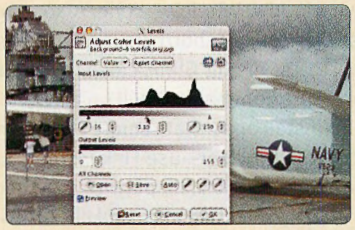
MASTER THE GIMP

GIMP may have most of Photoshop's power, but it's not Photoshop. Here's a quick walk through some frequently used tools—launch GIMP from the Applications folder, and drag an image to its Docked icon to open it.



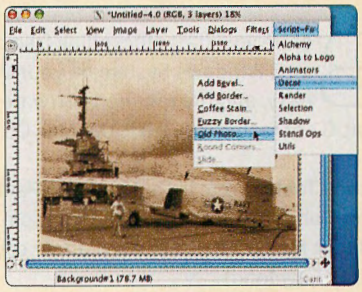
GIMP provides the editing and compositing power of Photoshop for zero dollars.

CORRECT WONKY EXPOSURES



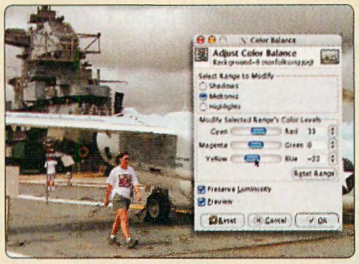
To fix exposure problems, use GIMP's menubar and select Tools › Color Tools › Levels to open the dialog. Below the histogram (the mountain-like graph that represents image data), move the black slider (if needed) so that it sits directly below where the mountain starts to alter shadow detail. Move the white slider directly below where the mountain ends to readjust highlights. Move the gray (middle) slider left to brighten the mid exposure levels or right to darken them. Alternatively—if you're lazy—just click Auto to have GIMP do the work for you. Tweak until satisfied, and then click OK.

OPEN A CAN OF SCRIPT-FU



One of GIMP's most alluring features is its awesome collection of effects-filter scripts—these treasures are stored in GIMP's Script-Fu menu (standard filters are under Filters). To make our photo look as old as its subject, we selected Script-Fu › Decor › Old Photo. We also rounded our photo's corners and added a drop shadow by selecting Script-Fu › Decor › Rounded Corners. With most scripts, selecting the Work On Copy option in the filter's dialog produces the effect in a duplicate file, keeping your original intact.

FIX COLOR FLUB



To get rid of color oddities, go to Tools › Color Tools › Color Balance. The dialog that appears offers three sliders to boost or diminish color, along with three radio buttons to choose the tonal range you want to affect. With the Midtones radio button selected, we moved the Cyan/Red slider toward Red to get rid of our image's cyan color cast and moved the Yellow/Blue slider toward Yellow to warm things up. We did the same in the Highlights range. When colors look right to you, click OK.

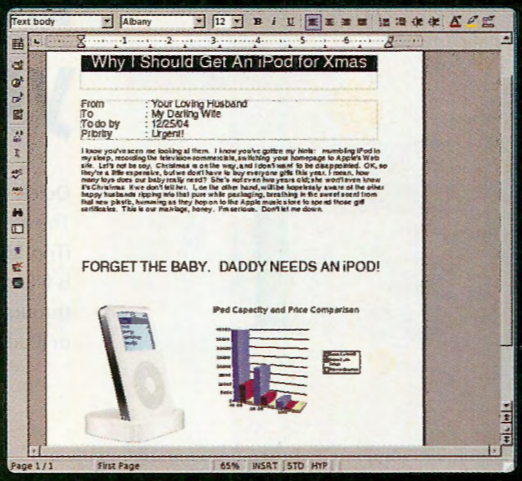
SAVE AND OPTIMIZE



Unlike Photoshop, GIMP doesn't have a ready-made Save For Web feature. But if you need to compress your file, you can achieve similar results by choosing the right save settings. Select File › Save As. In the dialog that appears, enter a name and location for your new file, select JPEG from the Determine File Type drop-down menu, and click OK. In the resulting dialog, check the Preview In Image Window box. Move the Quality slider to the left to decrease the file size (along with the image quality) until satisfied. Then click OK to save.

MANAGE OPENOFFICE.ORG

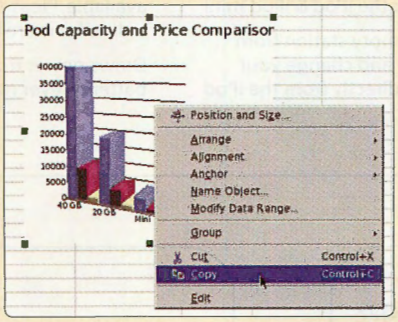
OpenOffice.org has made great strides with its suite of Microsoft-busting productivity apps, and its Writer and Calc apps are compatible with Microsoft Word and Excel files. Here's a quick walk through some of its notable components. Launch the app by double-clicking the Start OpenOffice.org icon in the OpenOffice.org folder.



OpenOffice.org doesn't have an email component, but if you've got business docs to take care of, its apps satisfy most needs.

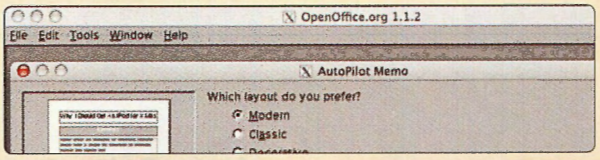
INSERT GRAPHICS

Placing charts and images into Writer docs is easy. To import your Calc chart into Writer, click its graphic to select it, press Control-C to copy it, click your Writer doc, and then press Control-V to paste in the chart—if you prefer, you can select commands from the contextual menu (Command-click or right-click). To resize an image, click and drag its green border. To move it around, click and drag from its center. To insert an image, select Insert › Graphics › From File. In the resulting dialog, choose an image and click Open. Your image appears in your document, ready for you to move and resize.



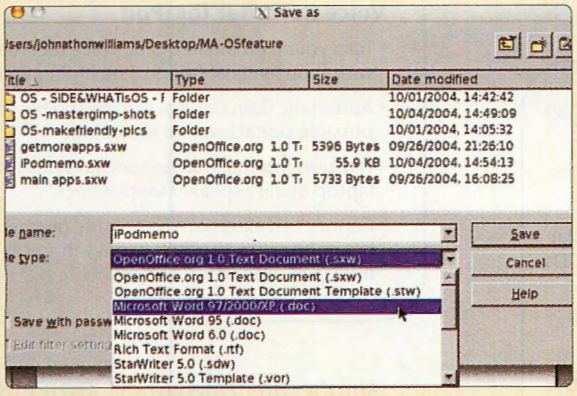
FOR SPEED, GO AUTOPILOT

Rather than reinvent the wheel, use AutoPilot to build a custom word-processing template for your project at hand. For example, to create a memo, select File › AutoPilot › Memo, and use the assistant that appears to choose a design, a layout, and field types for your document. When finished, your new memo template appears in Writer, which sports a familiar word-processor interface. The app's text entry and formatting tools work like those in most other word processors, so you shouldn't have any trouble writing your masterpiece.



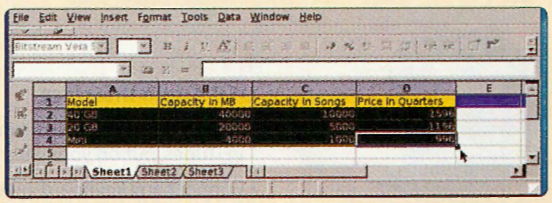
SHARE YOUR DOCS

To share your documents with others, select File › Save As. In the dialog that appears, choose the file format you want from the File Type drop-down (it includes Rich Text Format, plain text, various Microsoft Word and Excel choices, HTML, and other file formats). If you want a PDF, select File › Export As PDF.



CREATE A CHART

Select File › New › Spreadsheet to open a spreadsheet doc in Calc, which has an interface similar to that of Excel and AppleWorks. Enter data as you normally would in any spreadsheet app. When finished, highlight the cells you want to chart by clicking and dragging across them, and then select Insert › Chart. The resulting chart assistant helps you set row and column labels, and choose a layout and design. Make your selections, type a title, and click Create. The chart appears in your spreadsheet window.



Johnathon Williams has the entire GNU Public License tattooed on...well...you don't want to know. Read his blog and contact him at www.johnathonwilliams.com.



iTrip mini shown
(actual size)

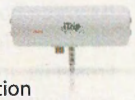
Let me take you on a trip...

Quick, where do you most often listen to music? In your car, right? The easiest way to enjoy all of that music in your car is the Griffin iTrip. Snap iTrip on your iPod or iPod mini and suddenly your music is filling up your next road trip, daily commute or business trip - right through the built-in FM stereo of any car. Buy an iTrip for your iPod or iPod mini and your favorite song will always be on the radio.

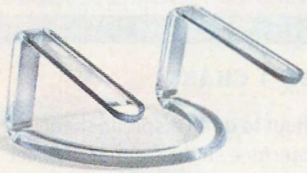
iTrip

$39.99

FM Transmitter for iPod



- The **only** FM Transmitter designed exclusively for the iPod & iPod mini
- Choose any empty station from 87.7 to 107.9, and change your iTrip stations directly from the iPod
- **iTrip for 4G iPods** also available. Please visit us online for more information
- Draws power from the iPod, no batteries ever needed–or wasted

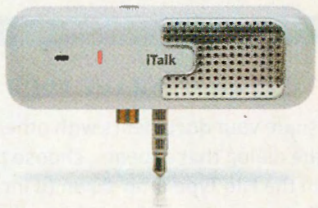


iCurve

$39.99

Laptop Desktop Stand

- Raises notebook screen to eye level - no more sore neck from looking down
- Creates room on the desktop for your favorite USB keyboard and mouse - wireless versions work great
- Keeps your notebook running cool (and loud fans off) with 360° airflow



iTalk

$39.99

Voice Recorder for iPod

- Turn your iPod into a digital voice recorder with thousands of hours of recording time
- Automatic Gain Control assures the best possible signal level for recordings
- Features internal microphone and built-in laptop quality speaker for playback
- Connect an external microphone or even headphones to the built in pass-through mini jack connection on top



iMic

$39.99

USB Audio Interface

- Record your old records and tapes to play in iTunes, put on your iPod, or burn to CDs
- Connect any keyboard, guitar or microphone directly to GarageBand for high quality recording
- Use line level output to connect your Mac to a stereo or external powered speakers

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It's difficult to maintain New Year's resolutions, but maybe you just need the right tools. Resolve to be more creative? Start with Wacom's Intuos3 (pictured), Auto F/X's Photo/Graphic Edges, or Nik's Color Efex Pro. Decide to always be on time? That'll be no problem with Now Up-to-Date & Contact. Get better at keeping in touch with friends and family? Maybe you need nFinity's QuickVoice to add a little personal touch to your emails. Become more productive? Well, put your resolution on hold until next month, when we check out Corel's Painter IX, PalmOne's Tungsten T5, and the SeV solar-powered jacket.

36 BBEdit 8.0 *text editor*
41 Color Efex Pro 2.0 *Photoshop plug-in*
47 EarJams *iPod earbud enhancer*
39 FlashTrax *portable media player*
50 Future Boy *text adventure game*
48 iDrum *software drum machine*
44 Intuos3 *drawing tablet*
34 iPod Photo *photo-capable iPod*
43 Live 4 *audio sequencer*
49 Now Up-to-Date & Contact 4.5.3 *personal info manager*
40 Photo/Graphic Edges 6.0 *image-enhancing software*
46 Production Suite *video-production software package*
49 QuickVoice *voice recording software*
38 REALbasic Professional 5.5.3 *developer tool*
47 RoadTrip *iPod transmitter*
42 SoundSoap Pro *audio-cleaning software*
51 Spider-Man 2 *video game*
48 Stitcher 4.0 *panaroma photo stitcher*
44 SyncMaster 192MP *LCD monitor*
46 Union *video-performance synthesizer*
50 Wireless Optical Desktop 3.0 *keyboard and mouse*

PLUS:

TheHotList

52 The best of the best from recent reviews.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SAMANTHA BERG

X Compatible with Mac OS X or later.

9 Compatible with Mac OS 9 or earlier.

EDITORS' MacAddict CHOICE — We'd spend our own hard-earned money on this product.

iPod Photo

OVERLY OPTIMISTIC PHOTO-CAPABLE iPOD

The term *kludge* has a long and noble history in the world of computing, honoring the resourcefulness of *kludgemeisters*, who assemble disparate components into effective—if inelegant—bits of engineering. At best, however, a kludge remains, well, a kludge: something that works fine but would work much better if it were designed from the ground up rather than cobbled together.

Apple's new iPod Photo is a kludge—it grafts photo-viewing capability onto the existing iPod. In many ways, the iPod Photo succeeds. However, when all is said, done, and squinted at, its 2-inch LCD does not a fab photo-viewer make.

What's in the box. The iPod Photo is a fourth-generation iPod at heart, with love-'em-or-hate-'em clickwheel controls. Included in its colorful box are: a pair of Apple's better-than-average neodymium-driver earbuds (with two sets of foam covers—thoughtful), FireWire and USB cables, a power adapter, and a CD with the requisite software. Make sure you install the iPod software update—we discovered that the iPod Photo performs erratically in Photo mode without it. Also included are a carrying case, a 1.5-meter AV cable for connecting the iPod Photo to your TV (more on that later), and a dock that has a combo AV/audio minijack port and an S-Video port.

Fire up the iPod Photo, and a bright, crisp, color screen greets you. The iPod's menus appear in a slimmer, easier-to-read font with a highlight bar that glows blue—the former iPods' 160-by-128-pixel monochrome LCD looks positively dowdy next to this display. The iPod Photo's 220-by-176-pixel LCD uses a *transflective* technology that employs



The iPod Photo may be undeniably hypercool, but the gee-whiz factor wears thin quickly.

even, bright backlighting to illuminate it indoors, and a semisilvered mirror beneath the LCD that reflects sunlight back through the pixels to provide good readability outdoors on a sunny day.

As a digital music player, it's still the good ol' 'Pod you know and love, with a couple of notable differences. For one, if the tune you're playing has album art associated with it, that art now shows up as a tiny 1-centimeter box on the display. Also, when you're viewing a Playlist (you can now view seven, not six, tunes at a time), long titles now scroll horizontally so that you can read their full refulgence. While this is useful for digging through titles such as "7 Bagatelles, Op.33: 3. Allegretto," there's no option to turn off this sometimes-distracting feature or to tell it to scroll only once.

Loading and viewing photos. Getting images onto this 'Pod is a snap: Connect your iPod Photo to your Mac, launch iTunes 4.7, select your iPod in the Source window, then click the iPod options button in the lower-right corner of the iTunes window. Click the Photos tab, and a dialog will appear, asking which iPhoto albums you want to transfer to your iPod Photo. Make your selections or select Copy All Photos And Albums. From there, iTunes will convert them to iPoddable images (on our Dual 2GHz Power Mac G5, we converted 250 images in 2.5 minutes), and then download them to your iPod (our 250 test images took about half a minute to arrive at the 'Pod).

When you select an album in the Photos menu, a 5 by 5 grid of 25 thumbnail photos appears, each a miniscule 7 by 5 millimeters—and there's no option to change the grid to show a more-readable 16, 9, or 4 thumbnails. If the photos are quite different—say, a face versus a flower—it's easy to find the correct one. But if the photos are similar—for example, a series of concert photos—your chance of selecting the photo you want drops precipitously.

Select an image, and it appears on the display. Reasonably well-exposed

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MADEO

COMPANY: Apple
CONTACT: 800-795-1000 or 408-996-1010, www.apple.com
PRICE: $499 for 40GB or $599 for 60GB

REQUIREMENTS: FireWire or USB 2.0 port, Mac OS 10.2.8 or later (10.3.4 or later recommended), iTunes 4.7, iPhoto 4.0.3 or later (recommended)

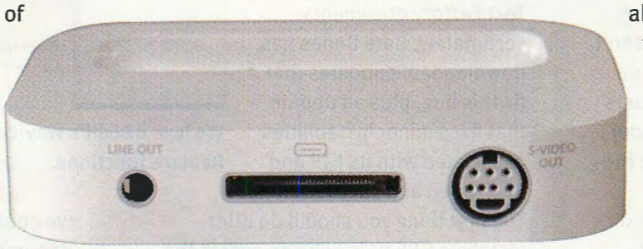
GOOD NEWS: Bright, crisp, color display. Massive storage capacity. It's an iPod.
BAD NEWS: Small display equals small images. Miniscule thumbnails. Image playback only.

MacAddict RATED
GREAT

images look fine, but it's a struggle to see detail in any underexposed shot. Happily, the display's 65,536-color range doesn't cause any posterization, even in test photos we chose for their subtle gradients. However, since the display's aspect ratio is 4:3, some of our horizontal photos had black letterbox borders above and below, and all of our vertical photos had black space fore and aft.

Click the forward and back buttons to navigate through an album, or click the select button to go into slideshow mode. Settings such as Time Per Slide, Repeat, and Shuffle are selected in the Slideshow Settings menu, where you can also choose the Playlist you want to accompany your slideshow—choose From iPhoto, and your iPhoto slideshow music settings will transfer to the iPod Photo. Convenient.

Viewing slideshows on the tiny screen is a solitary amusement, but if you want to share your photos, use the included AV cable to hook up your iPod to the video and stereo input RCA ports on your TV. You can also hook up via S-Video, but you must supply your own cable. When showing a slideshow on TV, the iPod Photo's display shows the current image, plus the preceding and next images—and you can use the forward and back buttons to navigate. Image quality is more than adequate when you connect to the TV via the headphone jack, and you can then use the clickwheel to control volume—you can't when connected via either port in the dock.



Hook up the iPod Photo's dock to your TV using either the component-video minijack (left) or S-Video port (right).

The bottom line. It's never fair to judge a product on what it isn't, but we can't help but wish that the iPod Photo more fully lived up to its name by including a media-card slot and the ability to view photos downloaded from inserted cards. Yeah, the iPod Photo relies on your Mac and iTunes to iPodify photos, but if devices such as the Archos Gmini400 ($399, www.archos.com) can accomplish that feat—in addition to having a larger screen and overall smaller size, having the ability to play MPEG-4 video, and including an FM tuner—why can't the iPod?

That said, the iPod Photo is still, after all, an iPod—the best digital music player on the planet. We only wish that when Apple decided to create a digital-photo viewer, it had gone back to the drawing board and created one from scratch, rather than try to kludge it into the tight confines of the iPod's 2-inch screen.—*Rik Myslewski*

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Thousands of artists and pro studios around the world use M-Audio monitors to record the music you love. Now our new StudioPro 4s bring the same unparalleled performance, technology and value to Mac lovers. They're the perfect companion for iPods, iTunes, AirPort Express, GarageBand and, well, your entire Mac music experience. Hear your music the way it was meant to be heard. Audition the StudioPro 4s at an Apple dealer near you today.



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M-AUDIO

BBEdit 8.0

PREEMINENT TEXT EDITOR

EDITORS' MacAddict CHOICE

Web authors will be happy to know that, holding true to Bare Bones Software's tag line, BBEdit 8.0 "doesn't suck." In fact, the latest version has a whole lot going for it. The new features reinforce BBEdit's position as a leader in HTML authoring, without making the application slow and bloated.

Our favorite new feature is the Text Factory—if you're a heavy-duty text processor, you'll discover instant benefits. Serious text-wrangling often requires performance of multiple operations on groups of files. Instead of requiring that you either remember what you did or save each step, Text Factory allows you to save a series of steps as a Text Factory document. You can then execute the steps over your group of files. Text Factory supports any of BBEdit's built-in tools, AppleScript, and anything you can run from the command line, including Perl scripts and Stream Editor (SED) commands.

BBEdit's drawer-based interface totally rocks.

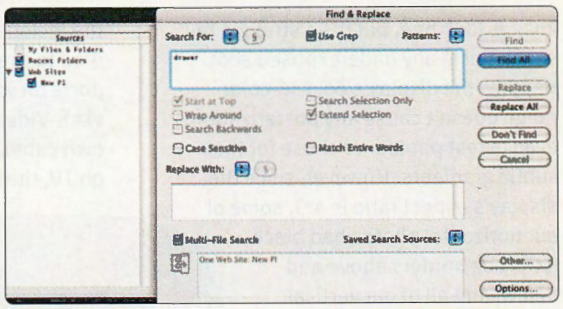
ON THE DISC
BBEdit 8.0 demo

Get the updates. Unfortunately, BBEdit crashed when we used Text Factory—twice when we were saving Text Factory documents. Fortunately, Bare Bones has downloadable updates that fix this bug, plus an update that fixes minor instabilities associated with its FTP and SFTP open and save features. The first thing you should do after installing BBEdit is head on over to the Bare Bones Web site and get the updates.

Most of BBEdit's new features are aimed at programmers or designers. It offers improved support for Mac OS X's Unix underpinnings—anything you can run from the command line, you can apply from BBEdit. Speaking of the command line, BBEdit also has an improved command-line tool.

The integrated HTML Tidy Tool cleans up HTML and XHTML documents. CSS support and the syntax checker are better—you can check fragments of syntax and mark areas you don't want to check, dispensing with bogus errors generated by code for dynamic languages such as PHP.

BBEdit's drawer-based interface totally rocks. It reduces screen clutter when you're working with large numbers of files, and improves file handling and multiple-file searching. However, we couldn't find a way to open multiple documents directly into a drawer window.

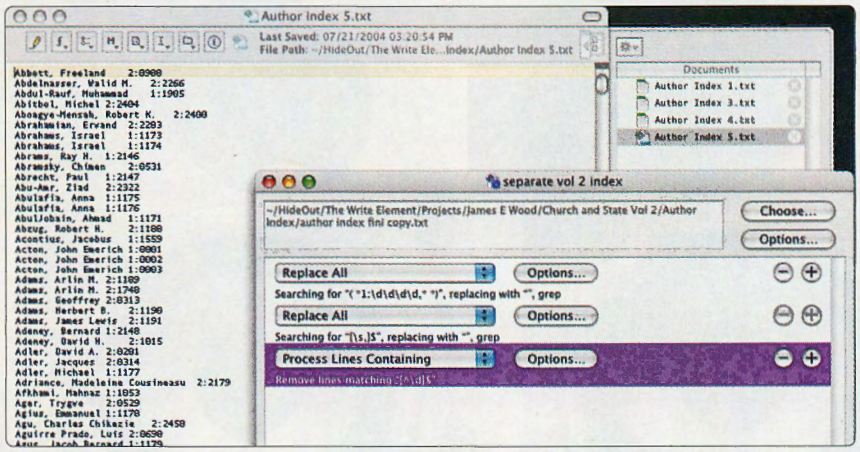


We love BBEdit's way-cool drawer interface for Find and Replace functions.

Geeky stuff. BBEdit supports Perforce and Concurrent Versions System, two versioning systems that maintain copies of documents as you revise them, enabling you to roll back to a previous version. The program offers support for Affrus, the only Perl integrated development environment for Mac OS X, and Exuberant CTags, an open-source technology that assists in navigating code and providing context-sensitive help functions. Bare Bones also added bbdiff to its command-line suite, allowing you to compare documents from the command prompt using BBEdit's efficient algorithms. Last but not least is support for codeless syntax coloring; no more programming to support a new language syntax.

Designers will love the improved Preview Server. In BBEdit 7.0, the Preview Server would only render static code—HTML, XHTML, and so forth. Now it calls on the functions of Mac OS X's built-in Web server and uses its resources to support dynamic code. If you work with Macromedia's Dreamweaver, you may be disappointed to learn that you must have Dreamweaver MX 2004 to work with BBEdit 8.0. That stinks—not everyone wants to pay Macromedia's $199 upgrade fee.

The bottom line: There are times when you love a piece of software so much that you think it's the perfect tool for a particular task. BBEdit 8.0 is one such piece—but make sure you get the updates.—*Mary Tyler*



BBEdit's Text Factory lets you perform a series of steps over a group of documents.

COMPANY: Bare Bones Software
CONTACT: 781-687-0700, www.barebones.com
PRICE: $179

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 10.3.5 or later

GOOD NEWS: Sleek. Efficient. Capable. Continues to kick serious ass.
BAD NEWS: Problems with crashes (though downloadable updates can fix them).

MacAddict RATED GREAT

WHERE WERE YOU DURING THE ROMAN MISSILE CRISIS?

LIFE STOOD STILL FOR 13 MINUTES. History changes in an instant. Never more so than in Rise of Nations, a new real-time strategy game from Brian Reynolds, lead designer of Civilization II. Experience the depth of turn-based strategy games at an RTS pace through 6,000 years of history and 18 ancient nations. It's the most intense RTS of its kind. Think fast. Fight faster. Defend, defeat, bargain, befriend, plot and plunder. Do it all under the gun with zero margin for error. Nothing is historically impossible, and only the quick and the brazen survive.

RISE OF NATIONS



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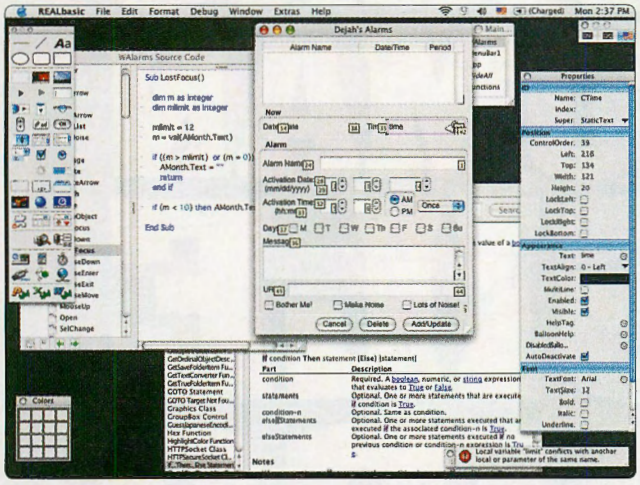
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REALbasic Professional 5.5.3

QUIRKY DEVELOPER TOOL

Application developers will delight in using REALbasic 5.5.3's drag-and-drop controls. REALbasic even prompts you to enter code for the relevant events when you double-click a control. With this strong upgrade, you can now develop a working interface in just hours instead of a week. Fantastic. However, once you get through REALbasic's drag-and-drop features, you must develop the code behind the interface—REALbasic is a pro development environment that requires pro programming skills.



You need lots of screen to sort your windows in REALbasic Professional 5.5.3.

REALbasic has several new and significant features. From the safety and comfort of your Mac, you can now develop applications for Windows (98 through XP), along with Linux distributions such as Red Hat Enterprise 3, SuSE Linux 8.1 and later, and Mandrake Linux 9.1—just develop the app as you normally would (avoid proprietary features, of course; you can't use AppleScript for a Linux app, for example), and then compile it for the OS you want. For developers who want to escape Microsoft hegemony, there's even a new converter that makes ports from Microsoft's Visual Basic easy. REALbasic also has SOAP (simple object access protocol, a series of routines that you call to access Web applications) and XML support so that you can add live data from a variety of Web applications such as Google, stock tickers, and weather reports. All of these features make the Mac a viable cross-platform development environment. Cool.

ON THE DISC
REALbasic 5.5.3 demo

Then there's the plethora of Mac-specific improvements. REALbasic now builds Mach-O (zero) console apps, in case you want to skip interface creation and make apps that run from the command line. It also does a better job of squeezing an application's file size—simple applications can now slip under 1MB. Plus, it supports rounded buttons and combo boxes, interfaces with the Address Book, scrolls faster, offers full keyboard access, and responds to Apple's speech-driven command technologies. If you need to do any of those things, you're in good shape.

Call for help. Unfortunately, REAL Software's tech support policy flat-out stinks. The free email support doesn't answer even simple questions within 72 hours, and phone support ranges in price from $49.95 for a single incident with a three-day response time to $2,499.95 a year for unlimited incidents and one-day responses.

You'll rely extensively on the online Language Reference and the over 500-page PDF manual. The manual is fairly complete and relatively easy to understand, and has a conveniently linked index. The online reference is decent, especially its context-sensitive features—it jumps to an object when it's selected. You can't, however, open more than one view at a time—you can't see, for example, info on the Date class and the ListBox class at the same time.

The bottom line. Despite some usability quirks and inattentive tech support, REALbasic is an outstanding development tool. The learning curve for creating applications that actually work is phenomenally low. REALbasic does difficult things with aplomb—but heaven help you if you need to contact tech support.—*Mary Tyler*

FORMAT FOLLY

In BASIC programming syntax, an **if** statement with a multiple-statement **then** clause needs an **end if** to close the block. A single-statement **then** does not require **end if**. For REALbasic, all of the following statements work fine.

```
if (a) then x=b
if (a) then
      x=b
end if
```

That said, REALbasic is finicky about formatting and white space, which goes against a programmer's conventional thinking. The examples below cause syntax errors even though, according to standard BASIC syntax, they shouldn't. REALbasic requires **end if** when a **then** clause is on a separate line, even if the clause consists of only a single statement. The example statements below cause syntax errors.

```
if (a) then
      x=b
if (a)
      then x=b
```

COMPANY: REAL Software
CONTACT: 512-328-7325, www.realsoftware.com
PRICE: $399.95 (download) or $449.95 (boxed)

REQUIREMENTS: G3 PowerPC Mac or faster, Mac OS 8.6 to 9.x or 10.1 or later, 32MB RAM, 20MB disk space

GOOD NEWS: Fast application development. Easy learning curve for experienced programmers.
BAD NEWS: Spotty documentation. Can't do certain easy tasks easily. Wonky syntax checker.

MacAddict RATED
GREAT

FlashTrax

FINICKY PORTABLE MEDIA PLAYER



The SmartDisk FlashTrax is easy to use and lighter than a laptop for storing your digital photos.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO

SmartDisk's FlashTrax cuts the carbs from your gadget gluttony. This portable hard drive and media player provides storage for your gadget data, plays music, and has an LCD screen to display pictures and videos. Now you can leave your notebook behind—and maybe even your iPod (gasp!)—when you go on location shoots or snapshot sprees.

The device measures about 5.5 by 3.5 by 1.25 inches with its lid closed, and weighs 12 ounces, so you can comfortably carry it in your coat pocket. Flip open the LCD, and FlashTrax looks like a GameBoy Advance SP. The LCD is bright—but the brightness isn't adjustable—and there's also no latch to keep the LCD closed, although the tight hinge stops it from flying open.

FlashTrax comes in 20GB, 40GB, and 80GB versions. Its single media card slot accepts only CompactFlash cards; if you use SmartMedia, Sony Memory Stick, Secure Digital, or Multimedia Memory cards, you need to pay $49.99 more for the optional media adapter.

There are two ways to transfer files: Insert your CompactFlash card and press the Copy button to copy the contents of the whole card (copying our 512MB card with pictures and videos took 5 minutes), or connect FlashTrax to your Mac via USB and transfer files and folders individually.

Leave your notebook behind—and maybe even your iPod.

Once your files are saved to FlashTrax, you use the device's File Explorer utility (which resembles the Mac's Finder in list mode) to access them. You navigate Explorer using the directional pad to select your directory or file and Enter and Esc buttons to open or close the directory or file. The interface is intuitive, but not snappy.

FlashTrax displays JPEG, GIF, and BMP images, TIFF thumbnails, and RAW images from Canon, FujiFilm, Minolta, Nikon, Olympus, and Pentax cameras. The Photo Viewer mode displays the image, along with the image's metadata, which includes information such as the date and time a photo was shot, its horizontal and vertical pixel resolution, and the camera's f-stop and shutter settings. You can control the slide show manually using the directional pad or use the auto slide show feature, which cycles through images for you. During the slide show, you can zoom in and out of most images or rotate them, but you don't get the metadata displayed in the Photo Viewer.

FlashTrax's video playback is limited to motion JPEG movies up 320 by 240 pixels at 30 fps or 640 by 480 pixels at 10 fps. FlashTrax flawlessly handled AVI and MOV videos shot with digital still cameras but couldn't handle our latest iMovie creation. When we copied a MOV file to FlashTrax and tried to play it, we found ourselves staring at a blank, gray screen—and the only way out was to reset or power down. If you have QuickTime movies, the SmartDisk Web site recommends using QuickTime Pro to convert them into Photo JPEG files with 8-bit mono or stereo sound.

If you're not devoted to your iPod, FlashTrax does double duty as an MP3 player, but there's no seamless integration with iTunes. In fact, FlashTrax can't read the AAC format, so you must convert your iTunes Music Store files to MP3 and copy them to FlashTrax.

If you're sick of lugging around a notebook, FlashTrax is a viable alternative. We're not ready to ditch our iPods just yet, but we're making room in our car trunks to stash our PowerBooks. Our backs are thankful.—*Roman Loyola*

COMPANY: SmartDisk
CONTACT: 239-425-4000, www.smartdisk.com
PRICE: $699.99 (80GB), $499.99 (40GB), or $399.99 (20GB)
REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 8.6 or later, USB port

GOOD NEWS: Small. Easy to use. Lots of functionality. TV connectivity.
BAD NEWS: Slow interface. No brightness adjustment. No AAC support.

MacAddict RATED
SOLID



Create montages featuring edge treatments on every image in a group.

Photo/Graphic Edges 6.0

COOL-BUT-INEFFICIENT IMAGE-ENHANCING SOFTWARE

Photo/Graphic Edges 6.0's 10,000-plus edges (we lost count around 1,734) enable you to turn straight-edged pictures into designer art with organic, industrial, geometric, or just plain weird edges. The software covers every image edge you can dream up (or have nightmares about), but it disappoints when it comes to performance and stability.

The stand-alone app ran about 15 percent faster than the plug-in.

Unlimited tweaks and options abound, although the unique interface is somewhat perplexing at first. Although rollover pop-up menus provide handy hints to the interface's many buttons, we found this feature only occasionally helpful. The hints revealed wisdom when we least expected it, but then let us down when we really needed some solid help, and we couldn't find mention of the hints feature anywhere in the manual.

In addition to offering an abundance of edges, Photo/Graphic Edges supports layers, montage creation (multiple images in one layer), focal adjustments that alter the depth of field, and photo borders that emulate everything from old-school 1950s scalloped picture borders to Polaroid-print borders. You can also adjust a border's texture and lighting, as well as the texture of the image itself.

Speed. You can use Photo/Graphic Edges as a Photoshop plug-in or as a stand-alone application that can import images directly and save in various formats, including bitmap, Photoshop, TIFF, JPEG, and PNG. We found that the stand-alone app ran about 15 percent faster than the plug-in version. The plug-in's speed is wretched, even on our Dual 1.25GHz G4 Power Mac with 1GB of RAM—applying an effect crept along like an iTunes Music Store CD download over a 56-Kbps modem. We often rendered our images in the preview screen to get a peek at how the effect would look, which took some time but was a heck of a lot faster than the final render time.

To grant ultimate power over its edgy little universe, Photo/Graphic Edges provides a variety of brushes that can spot-apply any of the included effects. Unfortunately, the brushes provide only a single-pixel line of application feedback so that we couldn't see exactly where we added the effect. It's a frustrating exercise in control—or lack of it.

The app's preset edges and borders were useful, but we found that the end results depended heavily on the original photo's image quality. Our professional studio shots fared well after we applied a good dose of preset effects; however, our snapshots of Aunt Sally's visit to the zoo didn't benefit to the same extent. Using custom settings offered better results, but it took forever to achieve the desired effect.

The bottom line. Photo/Graphic Edges succeeds in providing fun, unique, and interesting edges to enhance your images, but its performance is lackluster and its learning curve is daunting. The power to keep tweaking images to infinity and beyond may impress design and illustration pros, but Photo/Graphic Edges' endless variation coupled with its turgid rendering speed make it the kind of app you put aside to try out on a lazy day when you're not facing any deadlines—a pipe dream in any designer's world.—*Steven Parke*



Photo/Graphic Edges 6.0's interface is unique but daunting for casual users.

X 9

COMPANY: Auto FX Software
CONTACT: 205-980-0056, www.autofx.com
PRICE: $179 or $79 (upgrade)

REQUIREMENTS: G3 or faster; Mac OS 9 or later; 512MB RAM; for plug-in use: Adobe Photoshop 4.0 or Photoshop Elements 1.0, Corel Draw 9.0 or Photo Paint 9.0, or later

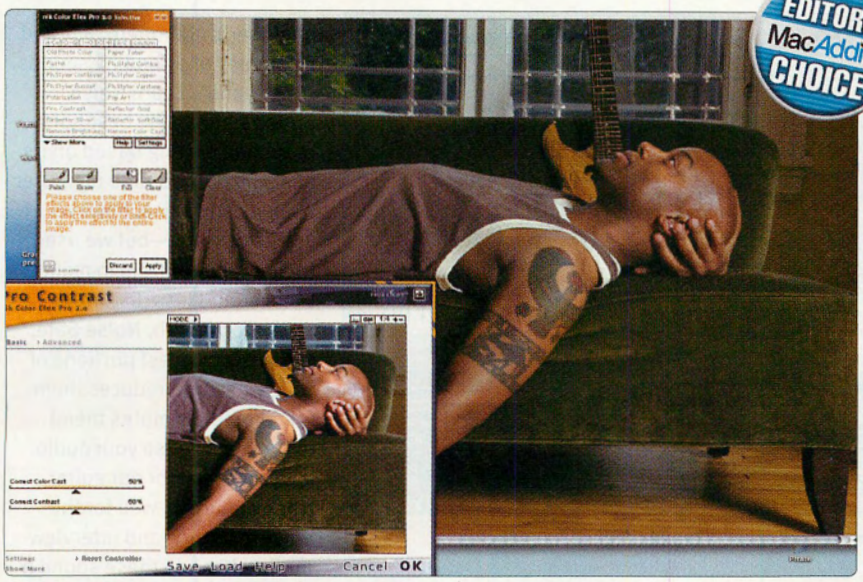
GOOD NEWS: Abundant border designs. Interesting presets inspire creativity.
BAD NEWS: Sloooow processing. Somewhat confusing interface. Funky effect-application feedback.

MacAddict RATED ●●●○○ SOLID

Color Efex Pro 2.0

COOL VIRTUAL LENS FILTER PHOTOSHOP PLUG-IN

EDITORS' MacAddict CHOICE



What you see is what you get with Color Efex Pro 2.0's preview.

For photographers who don't have the bucks to shell out for a gaggle of good lens filters, Nik Color Efex Pro 2.0 is the ticket to a filtered photographic lifestyle. This plug-in package is loaded with 75 old-school filters and darkroom effects for Adobe Photoshop (or other compatible host app) that can transform your digital images—add warmth, boost contrast, tint images, remove color casts, mimic infrared photography, apply a vignette, neutralize colors, and more.

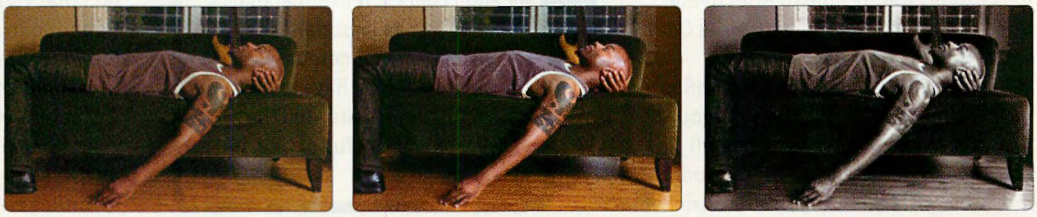
Unlike most filter plug-ins, Color Efex doesn't destroy original images while tweaking; instead, it adds an adjustment layer over the original each time you apply a filter. Each filter has its own dynamic color-processing system that works to preserve the digital image's color, contrast, and detail relationships. In other words, the filters effectively allowed us to maintain control of our black and white points as well as everything in between while applying various nifty effects to our photos. Cool.

ON THE DISC
Color Efex Pro 2.0 demo

No second guesses. The effective floating-palette interface provides quick access to the filters and painting tools. You can apply an effect with the default settings or use the paint and erase tools to fine-tune placement and application. We've had some bad experiences with filter packages in which the previewed effect looked great but the actual results didn't. With Color Efex, what you see is what you get. The interface provides basic editing options, but advanced controls are available in some filters if you're an obsessive tweaker (like us).

Unlike the developers of many filter packages, Nik didn't pad Color Efex with odd but relatively useless "look at my awesome effects, dude" filters. The remarkable Polarization filter, for example, works much like an over-the-lens filter, but better—its affect on contrast, color, and sharpening made our image more dynamic and crisp than we ever thought it could be. The Contrast filter works better than anything else available—avoiding the shortcomings of similar products, this filter enhances image contrast without blocking up blacks and blowing out whites. The Dynamic Skin Softener does just what it says, and it does so beautifully; it's not quite like smearing a lens with the traditional Vaseline (yuck), but it makes fine lines melt away. Overcast day got you down? The Sunshine filter comes eerily close to ordering up perfect weather. About the only filters we could do without are the Weird Dream and Weird Line filters, which are just the kind of odd effects that might look interesting once but rarely have any real-world application. They're too...uh...weird.

The bottom line. Many of Color Efex's other visual treats made so-so work look gallery-ready or advertising-campaign–hip—quite a feat for a bundle that acts like a Photoshop plug-in should. This is a fast, rock-solid upgrade and a must-have for traditional photographers using digital cameras. You can reproduce many of the effects through a combination of Photoshop's built-in tools, but Color Efex saves you the time and trouble. Now you can snub your nose at those archaic film photogs.—*Steven Parke*



Color Efex's Dynamic Skin Softener takes the original (left) and makes skin lustrous (middle). The Black & White Tonal Enhancer (right) creates dramatic black-and-white effects.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVEN PARKE

9

COMPANY: Nik Multimedia
CONTACT: 619-725-3150, www.nikmultimedia.com
PRICE: $299.95

REQUIREMENTS: G3 or faster, Mac OS 9.2.x or 10.1.5 or later, 128MB RAM, Photoshop plug-in–compatible app

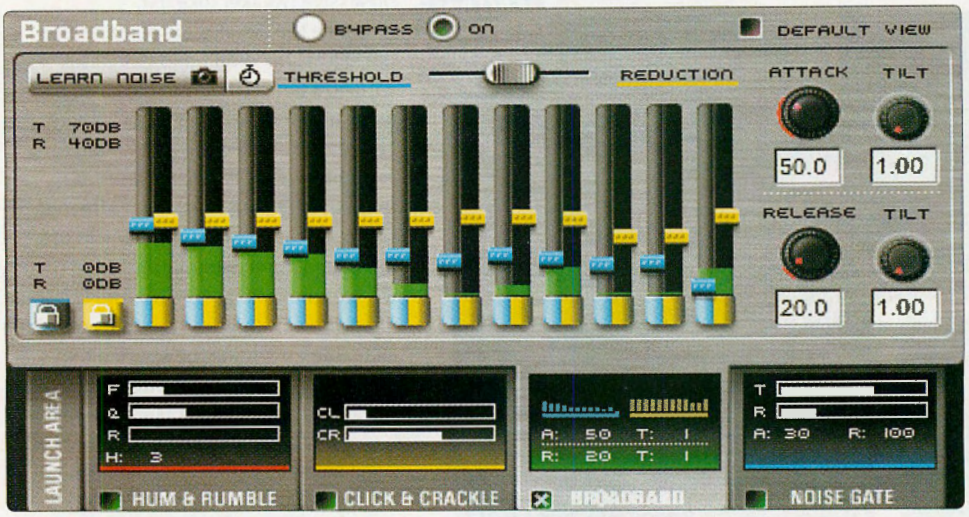
GOOD NEWS: Faster. Better. Stronger. Polarization filter alone is worth the package price for outdoor-photography enthusiasts.
BAD NEWS: Pricey for casual users.

MacAddict RATED
AWESOME

SoundSoap Pro

THOROUGH AUDIO-CLEANING SOFTWARE

EDITORS' MacAddict CHOICE



SoundSoap Pro's Broadband tools can get rid of noise that spans a broad range of frequencies.

Music producers and video editors often encounter pesky sonic anomalies that ruin audio tracks, such as hum caused by electrical grounding problems, vinyl-record crackle and pops, tape hiss, and ambient noise from air conditioners and fluorescent lights. SoundSoap Pro can help—it does a great job of cleaning up dirty audio while leaving the desired sound intact.

SoundSoap Pro is a plug-in requiring an RTAS-, AU- or VST-compatible host app, such as Apple's Logic Pro 7 ($999, www.apple.com), Digidesign's Pro Tools LE (●●●●● Dec/03, p52), or Bias's Peak (●●●●○, Nov/04, p41). Apple's Final Cut Pro (●●●●● Sep/03, p44) needs an external audio-editing app such as Bias Peak LE ($99, www.bias-inc.com) to run SoundSoap Pro, because Final Cut Pro doesn't let you use SoundSoap Pro's interface—and it's virtually impossible to effectively operate SoundSoap Pro with Final Cut's slider-based interface.

Tab definitive. We tested SoundSoap Pro on a guitar recording with a ground-loop hum, on a vinyl recording with crackle and pops, and on an outdoor interview with camera noise and cricket chirps. SoundSoap Pro's layered interface is tab-based; the first tab, Hum & Rumble, eliminates low-frequency noise, and eliminated the 60Hz hum in our guitar recording. The process was incredibly easy: We simply turned on the Hum & Rumble component, and the hum disappeared. You can also make adjustments to find the fundamental problem frequency and reduce it.

The second tab, Click & Crackle, fixes snaps, crackles, and pops in vinyl recordings. With two sliders for the click and crackle threshold values (the levels at which the effects kick in), processing your audio is a breeze.

The third tab, Broadband, is the deep cleanser. The camera noise and crickets in our interview test recording are examples of a classic audio engineer's nightmare: a broad frequency of offending sounds. Broadband's Learn Noise option defines the best noise reduction setting based on its analysis of the sound file. After using Learn Noise, however, voices warbled—but we used the manual controls to make them sound less distorted.

The fourth tab, Noise Gate, takes the quietest portions of your audio and reduces them (or completely mutes them) to further cleanse your audio. It worked well for our guitar track but not as well for the vinyl-recording and interview audio—it made these sound a bit unnatural. Noise Gate is a simple and common effect, however, and one that can come in handy.

SoundSoap Pro's Noise Only button (which you can use within any of SoundSoap's four tabs), plays only the noise in an audio file. In our interview test, for example, Noise Only played only the camera and cricket noise, with the interviewee toned down. Testing our tweaks with this feature allowed us to get the best possible signal-to-noise ratio—our final track still had traces of noise but was considerably improved.

SoundSoap Pro's wonderful, four-slot comparison feature called A/B/C/D Compare Buttons allows you to compare your tweaks without save and load presets (which you can also do). This is especially useful for the Broadband tab, which can require lots of tweaking.

The bottom line. Aside from the fact that you can't effectively use SoundSoap Pro in Final Cut Pro, we found it easy to use while allowing a lot of manual control over parameters. Also, its tabbed interface keeps everything visually clean. Most important, it does an awesome job of cleaning up noisy recordings.—*Andrew Tokuda*

TIP

Producing a video? During location checks, remember that sound is just as important as the visuals—if not more so. Even the quietest rooms have audible air-conditioning units, and the loneliest fields are full of bird and insect sounds.

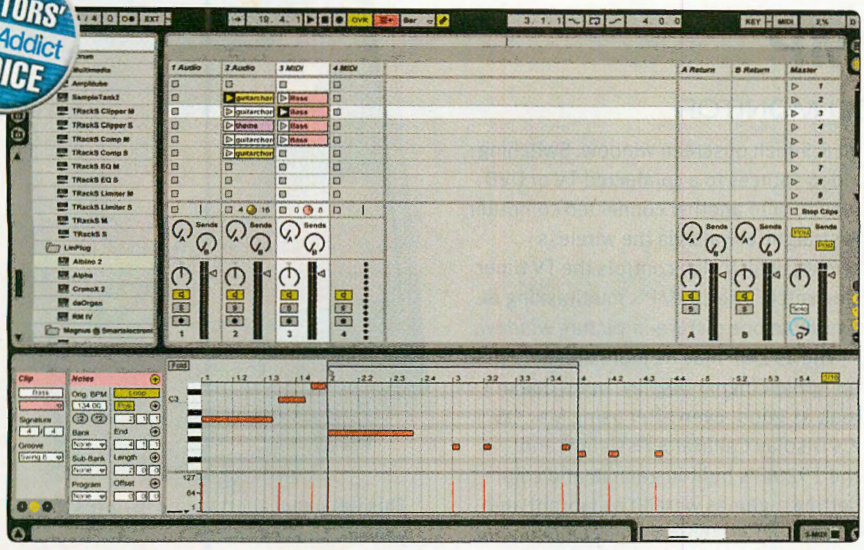
COMPANY: Bias
CONTACT: 800-775-2427, www.bias-inc.com
PRICE: $599

REQUIREMENTS: 500MHz G4 or faster; Mac OS 10.2 or later; compatible 120MB RAM, USB, RTAS, AU, or VST host app

GOOD NEWS: Noise Only feature provides better tweakability. Clean, intelligent, and audio engineer–friendly controls. Easy to use.
BAD NEWS: Final Cut Pro doesn't support SoundSoap's interface.

MacAddict RATED ●●●●● AWESOME

EDITORS' MacAddict CHOICE



Live 4's new ability to edit and record MIDI notes and velocities makes it a fully realized recording app.

Live 4

SPLENDID AUDIO SEQUENCER

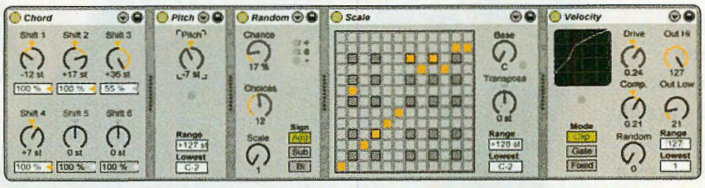
The previous version of Ableton Live (●●●●○, May/04, p58) brought improved live-performance features. With version 4, Ableton Live greatly upgrades the scope of its MIDI-recording powers to include full MIDI control (the previous version merely used MIDI keymapping to control sampled sounds), making this versatile audio app compelling for studio work as well. Live's excellent pitch- and tempo-bending tools and snappy performance have always been great for manipulating sampled sounds in real time, and now you can record MIDI from an external keyboard controller or any other device that spits out MIDI mojo.

MIDI management. Once you record MIDI notes, they show up in the timeline where you can directly edit, transpose, or otherwise manipulate them. You can directly edit velocity curves, which allows you to customize response dynamics on the fly—critical for precise tonal control. You can also choose to quantize recorded MIDI to tighten up sloppily played input and put your tunes into your chosen groove.

ON THE DISC
Ableton Live 4.04 demo

Live 4 isn't as full-featured as a dedicated MIDI-sequencing app, however. Missing tools include programmable quantization and transposition, real-time MIDI input filters, and an editor for after-touch information (a MIDI instrument's ability to sense the amount of pressure you apply to a key). The missing tools may annoy MIDI masters, but you can create MIDI files in another app and directly import them into Live 4. Another cool feature allows you to use your computer keyboard as a MIDI input device—a great solution for recording and editing when a MIDI keyboard isn't available.

Live has always had a potent array of filters and audio-processing tools. With MIDI support comes MIDI-based effects that allow real-time processing of incoming or existing MIDI information. Live's Chord filter automatically builds chords by using a root note you select. Live's Pitch filter perfectly shifts pitch—the newly added MIDI pitch-shifting involves simple data reassignment, so there are no audible artifacts, whereas pitch-shifting sampled audio is more complicated and can sound imperfect. The Random filter takes notes and randomly pitch-shifts them, which is downright wacky but fun for messing up drum-machine sounds by randomly altering triggered percussion sounds without changing the actual drum rhythm. The Scale filter is a sweet device that remaps incoming note values to specific target notes—for example, it can automatically change every occurrence of an A note to an F, every F note to an E, and so on, making it easy to create nonstandard scales.



A straightforward interface makes it easy to noodle with MIDI note info.

Virtual instruments. There are two new devices bundled with Live: Impulse and Simpler. Impulse, a drum machine that plays existing audio samples, plays up to eight simultaneous percussion sounds and has extensive modulation and filtering abilities. Simpler combines a general-purpose sampler with a cool array of traditional synthesizer controls, such as envelope and LFO sections, making a very useable musical synth that doesn't eat up much processor power.

Even more exciting is that Live 4 now works seamlessly with Audio Units and VST virtual-instrument or effects plug-ins, including storing plug-in manipulations as part of recorded sequences. We tested loads of third-party plug-ins in Live 4, and they all worked cleanly.

The bottom line. There's a lot to like about Live, and its new features make it an even more compelling choice for studio production and live performances. It's an easy Editors' Choice.—*David Biedny*

COMPANY: M-Audio
CONTACT: 626-633-9055, www.ableton.com
PRICE: $499

REQUIREMENTS: Power Mac G3 or faster, Mac OS 9.2 to 9.x or 10.1.5 or later, 256MB RAM

GOOD NEWS: Extensive MIDI enhancements. New percussion and sampler instruments. Audio Unit support. Beefed-up audio routing.
BAD NEWS: Missing extensive MIDI-editing options.

MacAddict RATED ●●●●● AWESOME

SyncMaster 192MP

VERSATILE MULTIFUNCTION LCD MONITOR



This flat panel sports more features than you can shake a coaxial cable at.

You *want* a new TV, but you *need* a new display for your Mac. Or perhaps you have two computers and want them to share a display with dual inputs (one DVI, one VGA). Heck, maybe you just want to watch *Comedy Central* as you write email. The 19-inch SyncMaster 192MP addresses these and other viewing needs, although not spectacularly.

MP stands for multipurpose, as evidenced by a plethora of signal-source inputs. We're talking VGA, DVI, TV RF, S-Video, analog-RGB, component A/V, and composite RCA, plus RCA and mini-jack audio inputs to feed headphones or the display's built-in 5-watt stereo speakers.

We had a blast playing Unreal Tournament 2004 while watching TV in an 8.5-inch onscreen window. Switching video sources to a connected TV or DVD player, or to another connected computer, is straightforward via the wireless remote, which also controls the TV tuner. One catch: The 192MP's multitasking is limited to one picture-in-picture window.

The 192MP may be more versatile than an Apple Cinema Display, but it doesn't look as good. Even after using Mac OS X's Display Calibrator Assistant and the 192MP's built-in gamma and color settings, games weren't as vibrant and text wasn't as sharp as they were on our Cinema Display. Television and game consoles displayed a nasty smeared picture caused by interpolation.

Though the 192MP stops short of performing any one of its plentiful features flawlessly, it's a good choice for those living in tight quarters—its versatility offsets most of our image-quality concerns.—*Noah Tsutsui*

COMPANY: Samsung
CONTACT: 800-726-7864, www.samsung.com
PRICE: $829, $750 (street)

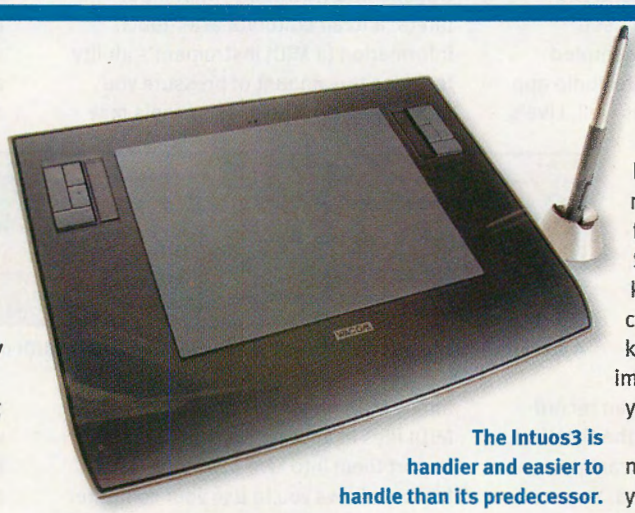
REQUIREMENTS: Almost any device with video-out

GOOD NEWS: TV picture-in-picture capability. Wireless remote. Extreme versatility.
BAD NEWS: Fuzzy text. Blurry TV display.

MacAddict RATED 9 SOLID

Intuos3

SLICK DRAWING TABLET



The Intuos3 is handier and easier to handle than its predecessor.

When we reviewed Wacom's Graphire3 consumer-grade graphics tablet (●●●○○ Feb/04, p56), we were annoyed with the acrylic overlay covering the entire surface, which made creating smooth strokes a challenge for slippery hands. The overlay was the first thing we noticed about the new Intuos3 tablet—at least the covering is now relegated to the frame. The drawing area is still made of that good old plastic we know and love. Acrylic frame aside, the Intuos3 improves on the Intuos2.

The Intuos3 has the same excellent feel and precise drawing capabilities as the Intuos2. The new pen has a new design but is still comfy, and the mouse now sports five buttons. Gone are clickable contextual menus such as Open and New. Instead, the Intuos3 has eight programmable ExpressKeys—a set of four sits on each side of the drawing space—that you can customize to perform practically any function via Preferences. We reassigned some of our keys to handle various work tasks such as grabbing screens, running scripts, saving, and mounting our server—and found them much handier than using the old menus. By default, the keys function as the Command, Shift, Option, and space keys, allowing you to easily call up Photoshop's modifier key functions and grab images without touching your keyboard.

The Intuos3 also has two new TouchStrips that allow you to zoom and scroll using your finger. However, the Strips didn't always work when we tried to scroll windows.

If you already have an Intuos2, this upgrade isn't a big deal, but if you're tabletless or use a Graphire, the Intuos3 makes working on the Mac just that much more intuitive.—*Kris Fong*

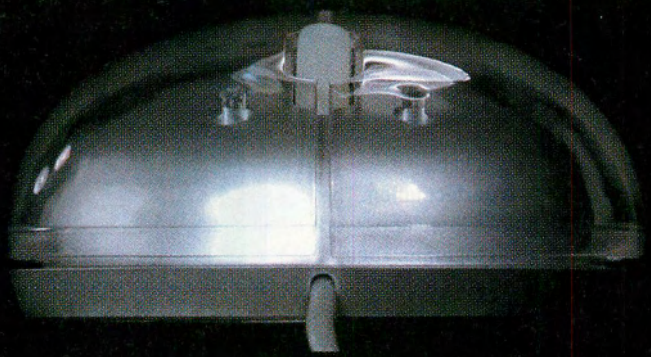
COMPANY: Wacom
CONTACT: 800-922-9348, www.wacom.com
PRICE: $329.95

REQUIREMENTS: G3 or faster, Mac OS 10.2.6 or later, USB port

GOOD NEWS: Excellent pressure sensitivity and tracking. Superhandy Keys and Touch Strips.
BAD NEWS: Some fussiness with Touch Strips. Beware of frame in humid conditions.

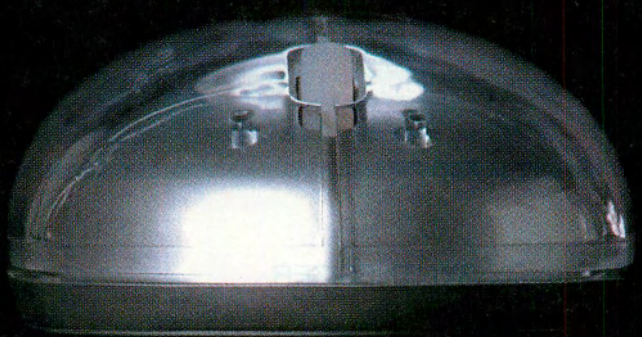
MacAddict RATED ●●●●○ GREAT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MADEO



Wired.

The Mouse USB scroll mouse.



Unwired.

The Mouse BT Bluetooth
wireless mouse.

Decision, decisions.

www.macmice.com

Production Suite

IMPECCABLE VIDEO-PRODUCTION SOFTWARE PACKAGE



Motion may be the odd app out in your video production setup.

Apple's new Production Suite is a bargain moviemaker's dream, serving up three meat-and-potatoes video apps in one package: Final Cut Pro HD for editing, DVD Studio Pro 3 (●●●●○ Sep/04, p48) for DVD authoring, and Motion 1.0 (●●●●○ Nov/04, p36) for building slick animated title sequences and motion graphics. You'd pay about $1,800 if you bought these apps separately, but the Production Suite costs only $1,299—a hefty savings. You won't encounter any gotchas by going the bundle route: You get the same manuals and extra software you'd find in the stand-alone versions, and can upgrade each app in the future as you like.

A perfect union. The Suite's three apps work great together. Their interfaces are similar, so you can learn one app quickly if you know another. The apps also work better together than similar software from Avid and Adobe in the Windows world. Some examples: Motion opens Final Cut projects, leaving cut points, multiple tracks, and other compositing settings editable (you can also launch Motion projects with a click from Final Cut's Timeline). And DVD Studio Pro can import menus made in Motion without rendering them first—a huge time-saver. Note: Final Cut videos require exporting before DVD authoring.

The bottom line. If there's a weak link in the Suite, it's Motion—it runs only on top-notch hardware, and Adobe's After Effects is a strong alternative. But even if you never install Motion, the Production Suite will save you a few hundred bucks on Final Cut and DVD Studio Pro, making it a no-brainer if you're buying these apps for the first time.—*Helmut Kobler*

COMPANY: Apple
CONTACT: 800-795-1000 or 408-996-1010, www.apple.com
PRICE: $1,299

REQUIREMENTS: Varies depending on type of use

GOOD NEWS: One-stop video and DVD production. Saves $500 over buying the same apps separately.
BAD NEWS: Steep hardware requirements for Motion.

MacAddict RATED ●●●●● AWESOME

Union

INSPIRING VIDEO-PERFORMANCE SYNTHESIZER

Livid's Union joins the growing market of real-time QuickTime-video presentation apps for video performance artists (aka VeeJays). With an array of special effects, extensive MIDI control–mapping, and live video-handling tools, Union is a serious powerhouse for live or studio work.

Union's no-fuss interface unites file management, MIDI controls, and video mixing on one screen. And while it supports QuickTime formats and codecs, Livid recommends 320-by-240-pixel movies and the Cinepak or PhotoJPEG codecs for maximum playback performance—it provides a simple utility for converting videos into these formats. Union also supports Flash and Shockwave animation formats, still images, and audio files for max performance flexibility.

ON THE DISC
Union 1.1 demo

In the mix. Simply drop media into Union's Clip Grid bank, which holds 36 files. You can increase media options by programming up to 127 Clip Grid banks, and trigger clips via either your Mac's keyboard or a MIDI keyboard; response times are snappy and precise enough to keep up with a musical beat. You can also choose to pipe in live video, with options for four frames per second or full frame rates if your Mac has the muscle. Save your processor for the excellent real-time video effects, which range from distortion to OpenGL-assisted 3D mapping.



Union offers tons of control over real-time performance.

Beneath the surface are creative possibilities galore, including a Low Frequency Oscillator panel that can cyclically trigger any of the effects parameters normally controlled through MIDI (such as having the blur amount or a video layer "breathe" in and out without user intervention). Union also offers extensive controls for tempo and beat synchronization of effects to any MIDI master sync.

The bottom line. Union unleashes vast creative possibilities. We expect this marvel to appear soon on a projection screen near you.—*David Biedny*

COMPANY: Livid
CONTACT: www.lividinstruments.com
PRICE: $299

REQUIREMENTS: 400MHz Power Mac G4 or faster, Mac OS X or later, 256MB RAM

GOOD NEWS: Slick interface. Extensive controls. Excellent performance.
BAD NEWS: CPU hog. Documentation lacks extensive tutorials.

MacAddict RATED ●●●●○ GREAT

EarJams

BOOMING iPOD EARPHONE ENHANCERS

Griffin's EarJams boost the bass playing through iPod earbuds by funneling audio deeper into your ear and using earpads that create a better seal between your ear canal and the buds.

EarJams snap to the iPod's stock 'buds and have three sets of pads, so you can experiment to find the best fit. The newfound bass gave us mixed results—sometimes it enhanced the music, other times the booming both sounded and felt too intense. You need to adjust the iPod's EQ settings to get the right sound.

Make your head go boom, boom, boom, boom.



The bottom line. If you want a cheap alternative to buying bass-enhanced headphones, EarJams definitely have the bass for your face.—*Roman Loyola*

COMPANY: Griffin Technology
CONTACT: 615-399-7000, www.griffintechnology.com
PRICE: $14.99
REQUIREMENTS: iPod earbuds

GOOD NEWS: Increases bass response. Adjustable earpads.
BAD NEWS: Questionable aural enhancement.

MacAddict RATED ●●●●○ GREAT

RoadTrip

RESTRICTIVE iPOD TRANSMITTER



The RoadTrip iPod FM transmitter comes in two models, one permanently set at an 87.7 FM frequency and the other at 107.7 FM. Here in the San Francisco Bay Area, 107.7 is home of The Bone, a popular classic-rock station—our 107.7 RoadTrip couldn't overcome that station's powerful signal and was therefore rendered useless.

Hope your 87.7 or 107.7 FM channel is free.

We had better luck with the 87.7 RoadTrip. Plug one end into your iPod headphone jack, and the other end into your car's 12-volt socket (now where do you plug in your cell-phone car adapter?), and you're good to go—at least until you drive into an area with a strong 87.7 signal.

The bottom line. If you have a free 87.7 or 107.7FM frequency, RoadTrip works. If not, it doesn't.—*Roman Loyola*

COMPANY: Newer Technology/Other World Computing
CONTACT: 800-275-4576, http://eshop.macsales.com
PRICE: $19.95
REQUIREMENTS: iPod, car stereo and 12-volt socket, free 87.7 or 107.7 FM signal

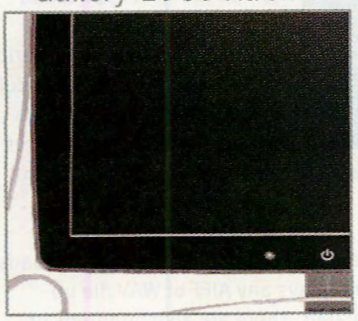
GOOD NEWS: Easy to use. Inexpensive.
BAD NEWS: Can't change unit's channel.

MacAddict RATED ●●○○○ SO-SO

Xtremely attractive!

Formac's new digital solutions.

Gallery 1900 Xtreme

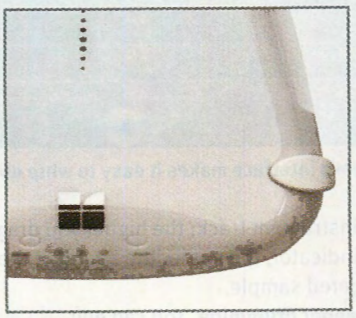


- Xtremely big: 19", 1280x1024
- Xtremely bright: 280 nits
- Xtremely sharp: 700:1 contrast ratio
- Xtremely fast: 15 ms pixel response

Only $599

FGD1900-2

Studio TVR

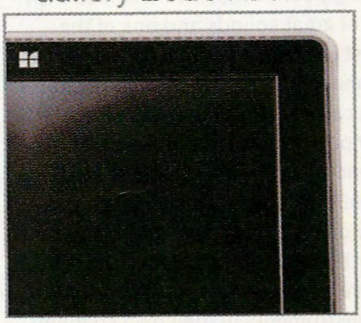


- Convert analog to high-quality DV
- Watch, pause, record live TV
- Free online program guide
- Encode to mpeg2 for DVD burning

Only $299

FST2052-0

Gallery 2010 Xtreme



- Xtremely big: 20.1", 1600x1200
- Xtremely bright: 300 nits
- Xtremely sharp: 700:1 contrast ratio
- Xtremely fast: 15 ms pixel response

Only $899

FGD2010-2

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Stitcher 4

IMPROVED PANORAMA PHOTO STITCHER

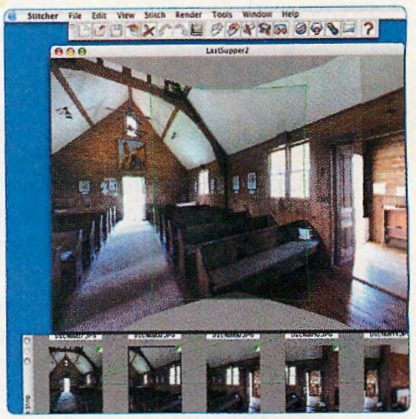
QuickTime VR photographers use RealViz's Stitcher for transforming multiple still photos into multiple types of panoramic images, from prints to cubical or spherical QuickTime VR panoramas, which place you in the center of a scene and let you visually explore a full 360-degree view. Version 4 improves on the retouching capabilities of 3.5.

Stitcher 4 lets you use Photoshop to edit panorama files, giving you access to all of its image-enhancing tools. This is a giant step forward, because you frequently need to retouch a panorama after creating it, especially if it contains movement such as people who changed position between shots or tree branches that swayed in the wind.

ON THE DISC
Stitcher 4.0 trial

Other welcome improvements include the ability to export each image in a stitched panorama as a separate Photoshop layer for retouching, and refinements to the Artifact Removal Tool (now called the Stencil), which creates masks to hide unwanted details. Version 4 also introduces a QuickTime preview that allows you to check pan, tilt, and field of view before rendering. (Apple's QuickTime VR Authoring Studio, forever stuck in Mac OS 9 at version 1.0.1, has always had this feature).

What's our quibble? These enhancements come at a steep price. The upgrade is $200, which is especially bitter if you paid Stitcher 3.5's retail price of $450. That total investment is more than the $580 that RealViz charges for a completely new Stitcher package.



Stitcher offers improved tools for cleaning up your image.

The bottom line. If you're a panoramic photo novice, there are less-capable, less-expensive alternatives—Kekus's PTMac ($49.95, www.kekus.com), for example—but if you're billing clients for QTVR, Stitcher quickly pays for itself. *—Tom Lassiter*

COMPANY: RealViz
CONTACT: 415-615-9800, www.realviz.com
PRICE: $580 or $200 (upgrade)

REQUIREMENTS: G3, Mac OS 10.1 or later, 128MB RAM, 24-bit screen resolution at 1,024 by 768, 50MB disk space

GOOD NEWS: Photoshop integration. Image export flexibility. Better QuickTime previews.
BAD NEWS: Expensive, even for the upgrade.

MacAddict RATED ●●●○○ SOLID

iDrum

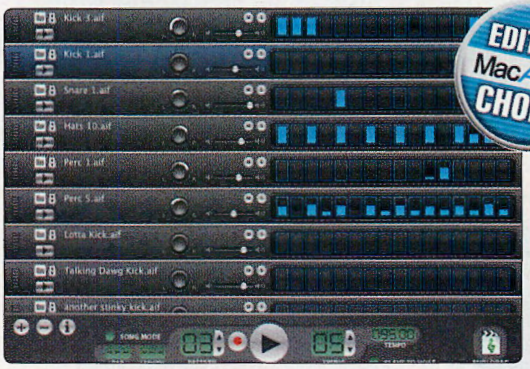
DIVERSE DRUM MACHINE

Glaresoft has made it extremely easy and cheap to get on the beat with its software beatbox, iDrum. While seemingly simplistic, iDrum comes with loads of great sounds and one of the slickest interfaces we've ever seen on a drum machine—software or hardware.

You can use iDrum as a stand-alone app or partner it with your preferred sequencing software—anything from GarageBand to Ableton Live (see our review on p43)—as long as that app supports Audio Unit plug-ins. iDrum's intuitive interface handles individual drum instruments in their own channels and provides simple controls for level, pan, and mute and solo switching.

ON THE DISC
iDrum demo

You program drum notes by clicking and dragging across the display to the right of the instrument track; the higher you drag the indicator, the louder the sound of the triggered sample.



iDrum's interface makes it easy to whip up rhythms.

Deeper drumming. You can edit everything while a pattern is playing. A side panel slides out to show deeper options for each channel, allowing you to pitch-tune samples up or down—a great way to extend the sonic possibilities of a single sampled instrument. Other options include frequency filtering and making a channel respond to an external MIDI controller. iDrum can follow whatever tempo the host application sets, but it can inherently handle only 4/4 time—a serious drawback if you want to indulge in musical styles other than pop and rock. Forget waltzes and Bulgarian folk tunes in 11/8 time.

iDrum ships with hundreds of sampled drum instruments, and loads and plays any AIFF or WAV file up to 2MB. There are also hundreds of premade drum patterns, so even the most rhythmically challenged weekend musician can whip up a danceable dittie.

The bottom line. For $49, iDrum is a great tool for anyone looking to beef up their beats.—*David Biedny*

COMPANY: Glaresoft
CONTACT: www.glaresoft.com
PRICE: $49

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 10.2 or later, QuickTime 6.5 or later

GOOD NEWS: Simple interface. Excellent included samples and patterns. Low processor overhead.
BAD NEWS: No alternate time signatures (4/4 only).

MacAddict RATED ●●●●○ GREAT

Now Up-to-Date & Contact 4.5.3

LIMITED PERSONAL INFO MANAGER

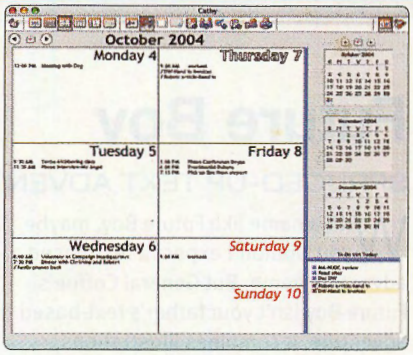
Now Up-to-Date & Contact 4.5.3 has more calendaring and contact features than Apple's iCal/Address Book combo or Microsoft Entourage—but some of its limitations may prevent you from switching.

Like iCal and Address Book, Up-to-Date and Contact are separate apps. Unlike Address Book and Entourage, however, NUDC doesn't work hand in hand with any email app. Clicking the envelope icon next to any email address starts a new message in your default email app, but it's not the same as having your email, contacts, and calendar in one window (as with Entourage), or double-clicking a name in an email message's To or From fields and having it automatically added to your contacts manager (also as with Entourage). One nice feature: NUDC has an Address Book syncing app that lets you keep those two apps in step, a feature absent in Entourage.

ON THE DISC
Now Up-to-Date & Contact 4.5.3 trial

Cooperative commingling. NUDC's ability to share calendars and contacts on a network, and to easily schedule meetings, is its most useful feature. We also like that it installs two menubar items—one for each app—for quick access to info in the apps. Up-to-Date has more calendar details than either Entourage or iCal, including six ways to view your schedule. Contact lets you view contacts by letter (such as those starting with A) and includes powerful search capabilities.

On the downside, Contact provides only two dedicated email fields (Entourage and Address Book don't have restrictions)—any more addresses must go into one of 12 custom fields. When we synced data with Address Book, NUDC lost our IM field as well as our extra email addresses. Also, NUDC can't handle vCards and vCals.



Now Up-to-Date lets you view your week's duties easily.

The bottom line. If you need a good group scheduling solution or you use a standalone email client, NUDC offers a lot of powerful features. But if you're looking to streamline your contacts, calendar, and email situation, NUDC won't help much.—*Cathy Lu*

COMPANY: Now Software
CONTACT: 800-344-9160, www.nowsoftware.com
PRICE: $119.95

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 10.2.8 or later

GOOD NEWS: Group scheduling. Quick access via menubar items.
BAD NEWS: No direct integration with email. Limited fields.

MacAddict RATED ●●●●○ SOLID

QuickVoice

SIMPLE VOICE RECORDER

Email is great, but there's nothing like the human voice. QuickVoice 1.8 taps QuickTime to bring the power of speech to email and helps you use your Mac as a multipurpose digital-audio tool.

QuickVoice records via a microphone or any other audio-in device, and then automatically names and saves those recordings as .MOV files—you can't save any other audio format (you use iTunes to convert the file to MP3). The Voice Sticky feature sticks voice-recorded memos to your Desktop, but it lacks instant access; Command-L calls up a Voice Sticky only when QuickVoice is in the foreground.

Each of the 11 audio compressors, plus an uncompressed option, has sound-quality and file-size settings. We got great results from using Qualcomm PureVoice compression with a PowerBook G4's built-in mic, as well as with an inexpensive headset mic plugged into a USB digital-audio processor on a Power Mac G4.

Voice mail. QuickVoice has a one-click option that attaches a recording to outgoing email in Apple's OS X Mail, or Microsoft's Entourage or Outlook Express. When you get an email message with a QuickVoice file attached, just double-click to open it. Since it's a .MOV file, it opens in QuickTime and plays automatically—PC folks can download QuickTime at www.apple.com/quicktime/download.

QuickVoice's Manager window (which resembles the iTunes interface) has 10 channels to record and categorize content; each channel can hold 99 messages. Manager also lets you playback, add descriptions, and delete recordings, but there are no tools for format conversion or CD burning. Audio editing requires a third-party app.



No, that's not iTunes. It's QuickVoice's Manager, which keeps your voice recordings organized.

The bottom line. QuickVoice's ease of use and organizing tools make it great for voice annotations, but you need other apps to make up for its limitations.—*Tom Lassiter*

COMPANY: nFinity
CONTACT: www.quick-voice.com
PRICE: $19.95

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 9.1 to 9.x or 10.1 or later, microphone

GOOD NEWS: Easy to use. Saves files as QuickTime .MOV files.
BAD NEWS: No audio-editing tools. No export to other audio formats.

MacAddict RATED ●●●●○ SOLID

Future Boy

SPRUCED-UP TEXT ADVENTURE GAME

With a name like Future Boy, maybe you wouldn't expect a text-based adventure game. But General Coffee's Future Boy isn't your father's text-based adventure. It combines illustrations, simple animations, and sounds to breath new life into a fading genre.

Future Boy is based on Hugo, a design system used to create text adventures with supplemental visuals and sound. The game itself runs on a Hugo engine, which runs smoothly on current and older Power Macs, and consists of basic text, illustrated stills, short animations, and simple audio—no Doom 3–like artistry and gameplay here. General Coffee recommends an 800 by 600 screen resolution, and it's best to heed that suggestion—the game didn't resize itself on the fly, nor did it take full advantage of our Apple 23-inch HD Cinema Display's native 1,920 by 1,200 resolution.

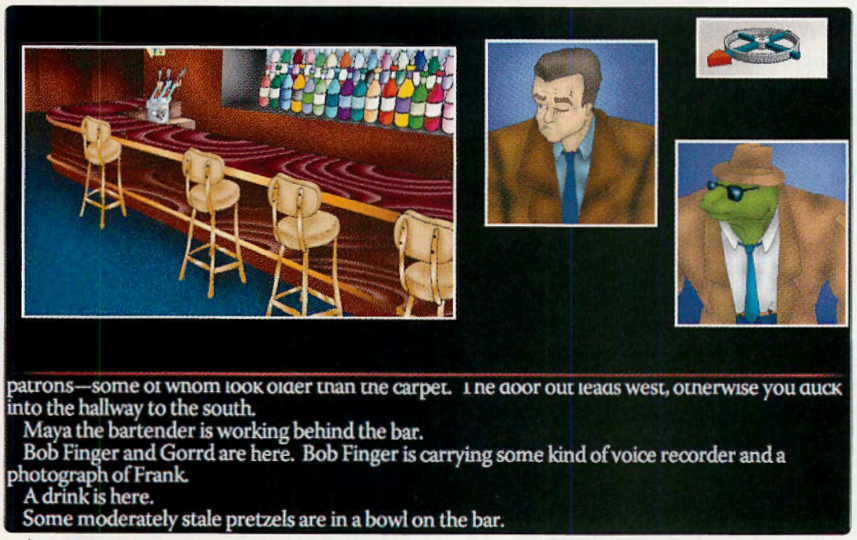
ON THE DISC
FutureBoy Release 1 demo

You start your adventure with a greeting from a command prompt. For the uninitiated (read: anyone born in the late 1980s), text-based adventures require that you read a story as you go along, typing in commands for your moves accordingly.

You play the roommate of superhero Future Boy, who's been kidnapped and needs you to save him. Experienced text-based gamers will fly through the game easily. If you've immersed yourself in modern-day graphical adventures, you're in for a shock—instead of clicking through a scene, you have to read carefully, react, and experiment.

Future Boy's storyline is well-paced and interesting, and provides hints if you are stuck in a scene. You can save the game anytime, and you can even undo your last move. Also, if your eyes get weary but you just can't stop playing, you can increase the text size.

The bottom line. Future Boy is a nice change of pace from adventure games on the market today. It won't razzle-dazzle you, but you may find the mental exercise invigorating.—*Roman Loyola*



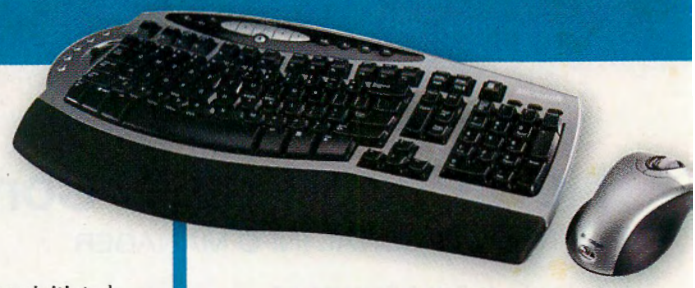
Basic animations and stills complement the storyline of Future Boy.

COMPANY: General Coffee
CONTACT: www.generalcoffee.com
PRICE: $19.95

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 9.1 to 9.x or 10.2 or later, QuickTime 5 or later

GOOD NEWS: Good ol' fashioned text-based fun with a twist.
BAD NEWS: Screen adjustments aren't automatic or opportunistic.

MacAddict RATED
SOLID



Microsoft's Desktop set encourages productivity.

Wireless Optical Desktop 3.0

COMFORTABLE KEYBOARD AND MOUSE

Apple keyboards and mice look good, but they can be impractical—the keyboard has only basic keys, and the single-button mouse's only major evolution was its switch to optical tracking. Microsoft's Wireless Optical Desktop 3.0 has more to offer.

The Optical Desktop keyboard has a slight curve for ergonomic comfort, and its sturdy keys have just enough give. Programmable keys abound (we like opening the Terminal at the press of a button), and there are even dedicated keys for iTunes functions. There's also a nifty zoom slider, which is handy for Photoshop and for changing text size in Web browsers.

The mouse feels good in either hand and has two buttons plus a clickable scroll wheel. The smooth-rolling wheel also does horizontal scrolling.

The wireless base, which uses a 27MHz radio frequency, plugs into your Mac's USB port. On the downside, Microsoft includes Energizer batteries, not rechargables.

The bottom line. The Optical Desktop doesn't really jibe with Mac aesthetics—but if that's important to you, use what came with your Mac. What's important to us is that using the Optical Desktop helps us get more work done faster.
—*Roman Loyola*

COMPANY: Microsoft
CONTACT: 800-774-3256, www.microsoft.com
PRICE: $84.99

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 10.1 or later, USB

GOOD NEWS: Programmable keys. Mouse for righties or lefties.
BAD NEWS: Rechargeable batteries not included.

MacAddict RATED
GREAT



Looking for a video game as good as the movie from which it's spun? This isn't it.

Spider-Man 2

BITELESS VIDEO GAME

Among Spider-Man's powers is his extrasensory ability—a Spidey-sense that tells him when something bad is going to happen. For example, if Peter Parker (Spider-Man's true identity) were game-shopping and picked up a copy of Spider-Man 2, his Spidey-sense would tingle and he'd put the box back on the shelf. Whew—bad thing avoided.

When it comes to avoiding disappointing games, you're in luck, because your Spidey-sense comes in the form of this review.

This game has the same problems as most video games based on movies—they're frequently uninspired and run-of-the-mill. Spider-Man 2 is simply a cookie-cutter action-adventure game in which you run the gauntlet to get through a level, beating people up and achieving your goals until you get to the boss at the end of the level. Then there's a button-mashing rumble until you're successful, then it's on to the next level. And so on. And so on. And so yawn.

As in the movie, Doctor Octopus is a meanie with too many evil-minded appendages. You're Spider-Man and you have to stop him—eventually. Unlike Spidey in the movie, you don't spend time battling teenage angst, pining over the girl you can't bring yourself to love, nor do you temporarily give up the superhero act. In fact, you're a superhero all the time, journeying through a series of levels where you battle other baddies: Mysterio, Puma, Rhino, plus your everyday thugs. Battling the baddies could've been fun, if it weren't for the simplistic nature of the fights.

The controls for the game are easy to learn—the mouse controls your point of view, while you use the keyboard buttons to go forward, go backward, jump, and strafe. You direct your action using the crosshair that sits in the middle of the screen. For example, if you want to do some web swinging, point the crosshair at the point where you want your web to go, and press the mouse button. When you want to bash a thug's head in, point at the guy with the crosshair, and press the mouse button.

When it's time to battle a boss, the action stops for a cut scene that introduces the boss. Then a minitutorial appears, telling you what moves you need to do to win—and thus removing any reason to continue the game.

Starting to get that tingly feeling? That's your sense of awareness about the Spider-Man 2 game. If you're a hard-core fan who has to have everything red and blue, get the game. If you demand a worthwhile gaming experience, this one'll disappoint you.—*Roman Loyola*

COMPANY: Aspyr
CONTACT: 512-708-8100, www.aspyr.com
PRICE: $29.99

REQUIREMENTS: 700MHz G3; Mac OS 10.2.8 or later; 32MB ATI Radeon 7500, nVidia GeForce 2, or better; 1GB disk space

GOOD NEWS: Variety of baddies to beat up. Easy-to-learn controls.
BAD NEWS: Uninspired. Simplistic fighting.

MacAddict RATED
○○○○○
LOUSY

Events and Promotions

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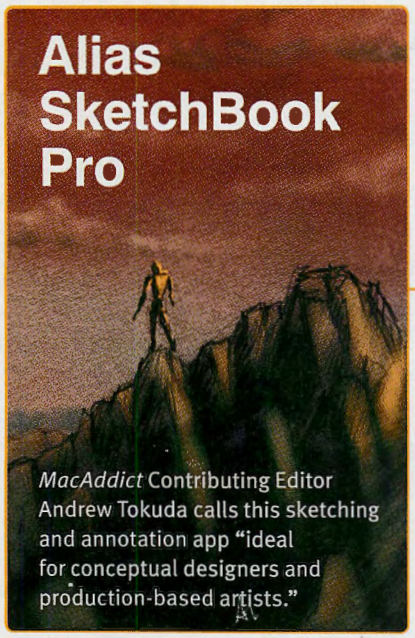
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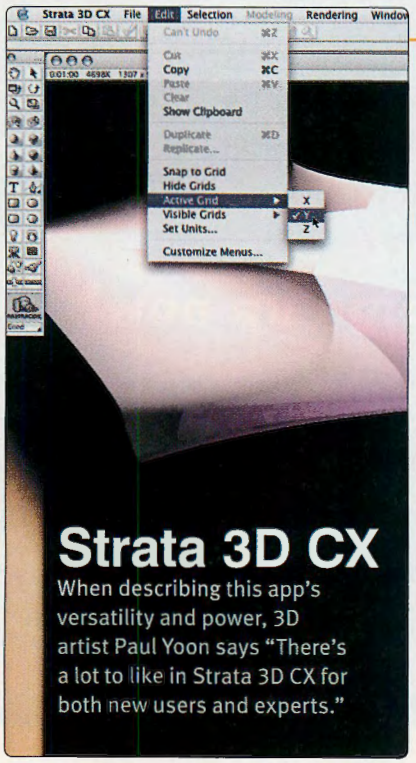
theHotList

THE BEST OF THE BEST FROM RECENT REVIEWS

SHOPPING? HERE'S WHAT WE RECOMMEND

NEW THIS MONTH





SOFTWARE

AUDIO			
Ableton Live 3.0.2	$399.00	May/04, p58	New effects, clip-level automation—all in a real-time sequencer.
Native Instruments Guitar Rig	$499.00	Nov/04, p40	Killer software plus a study stomp box will wow any guitarist.
Native Instruments Reaktor 4	$559.00	Jun/04, p56	If you can imagine a sound, you can create it with this synth.
GAMES			
Aspyr Call of Duty	$49.99	Sep/04, p52	This shooter has tons of action, detailed locales, and fun.
Feral Interactive XIII	$55.00	Oct/04, p52	This mission-based shooter has an old-style comic book feel.
MacSoft Halo: Combat Evolved	$49.99	Mar/04, p38	It's as awesome as your Xbox buddies say it is.
MacSoft Unreal Tournament 2004	$39.95	Jun/04, p48	The best first-person shooter adds new vehicles and weapons.
GRAPHICS & LAYOUT			
@Last Software SketchUp	$475.00	Aug/04, p54	Even professional architects will value this 3D sketching tool.
Adobe InDesign CS	$699.00	Feb/04, p46	More features and easier navigation make layout a snap.v
Adobe Photoshop CS	$649.00	Feb/04, p44	Just when you thought Photoshop couldn't get better, it did.
Alias SketchBook Pro	$179.00	Dec/04, p40	This elegant app makes sketching and annotating easy.
Macromedia Dreamweaver MX 2004	$399.00	Jan/04, p48	Our favorite Web-design tool adds improved CSS support.
Macromedia Flash MX 2004 Pro	$699.00	Jan/04, p48	Don't know how to write code? Flash MX will do it for you.
Macromedia FreeHand MX	$399.00	Jun/03, p49	In the race with Adobe Illustrator, FreeHand pulls ahead.
Strata 3D CX	$695.00	Dec/04, p43	Whether you're a 3D newbie or expert, this app's for you.
WoodWing Software Smart Styles CS	$149.00	Sep/04, p50	Save and apply InDesign styles for objects, tables, and text.
PRODUCTIVITY & UTILITIES			
FileMaker Pro 7	$299.00	Jul/04, p46	A complete rewrite vaults this database into the big leagues.
Microsoft Office 2004	$399.00	Aug/04, p42	Enhancements to every app add up to a worthy upgrade.
VIDEO & ANIMATION			
Adobe After Effects 6.5	$699.00	Sep/04, p46	This upgrade is strong enough to be called version 7.
Apple Final Cut Express 2.0.2	$299.00	May/04, p48	Unless you need to go Pro, Express will save you $700.
Discreet Combustion 3	$995.00	Sep/04, p47	If you're serious about video compositing, get this soiftware.

HARDWARE

ACCESSORIES			
Apple AirPort Express	$129.00	Oct/04, p48	This portable wireless router will stream your iTunes music.
Microsoft Wireless IntelliMouse Explorer	$64.95	Jan/04, p57	Our favorite desktop mouse adds horizontal scrolling.
RadTech BT-500 Mobile Mouse	$54.95	Aug/04, p58	Here's the perfect mouse for Bluetooth-equipped travelers.
AUDIO & VIDEO			
Canon Optura Xi	$1,499.00	Aug/04, p38	High-end features distinguish this mid-priced camcorder.
Elgato EyeTV 200	$349.00	Jul/04, p53	This digital video recorder will change the way you watch TV.
MCE Technologies QuickStreamDV	$729.00	Aug/04, p57	This rugged DV-encoding drive includes a hot-shoe mount.
Sony DCR-VX2100	$2,999.99	Aug/04, p39	Want to move up to the big leagues? Here's your camcorder.
Sony DCR-HC20	$499.99	Aug/04, p36	This compact, inexpensive camcorder has great image quality.
Tivoli Audio iPal	$129.99	Nov/04, p50	You won't believe the sound of this compact radio and speaker.
DIGITAL CAMERAS			
Nikon Coolpix 5400	$699.95	Dec/03, p22	This prosumer camera handles well and shoots even better.
Nikon D70 Digital SLR	$1,299.00	Jul/04, p50	It's as close to perfect as any digital SLR camera we've seen.
PRINTERS			
Canon i560	$89.99	Sep/04, p28	Ninety bucks can buy an exceptionally capable photo printer.
Canon i860	$149.99	Sep/04, p29	This printer's Photo Black cartridge makes color photos pop.
Canon i900D	$199.99	Sep/04, p31	Gorgeous prints, CD printing, color-LCD editing—all good stuff.
SCANNERS			
Epson Perfection 2580	$149.00	Oct/04, p37	This flatbed handles both reflective and film scans with ease.
Epson Perfection 4180	$249.00	Oct/04, p39	Superior image quality earns this scanner our recommendation.
Microtek ScanMaker i320	$129.00	Oct/04, p35	Killer photo-rescue software comes with this affordable unit.
STORAGE			
LaCie Big Disk Extreme 500GB	$449.00	Aug/04, p55	Cutting-edge technology provides cutting-edge performance.
OWC Mercury Pro DVD-/+RW	$175.95	Aug/04, p60	The speedy drive includes everything you need to start burning.
WiebeTech G5Jam 1TB	$1,739.95	Aug/04, p59	This internal 4-drive RAID makes a Power Mac G5 scream.



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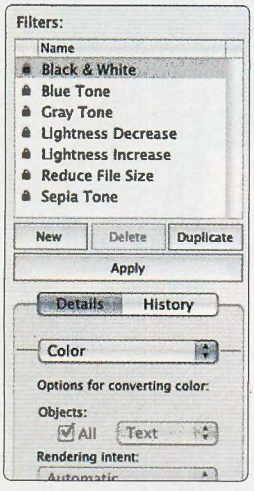
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PDF SECRETS

Can I send my printing-press folks PDF files created with the standard Mac OS X Save As PDF command from the print dialog?

When you choose Save As PDF from the print dialog, Mac OS X creates a PDF all right—but it's not a complete press-ready document. Your Mac uses the same rendering engine (Quartz) that it uses to generate onscreen images, which isn't high enough quality for printing, even though it looks great on your screen. Plus, Mac OS X's PDFs always use the RGB color space even if you set up your document with its own color profile. Apple's



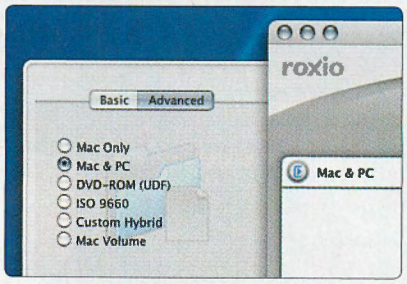
Apple's Color Sync Utility packs a lot more PDF mojo than you may realize.

underpublicized workaround is to create a PDF from a raw PostScript (.ps) document via the Preview application (/Applications/Preview) just as you'd do with Acrobat Distiller. Just drag the PostScript file onto the Preview application's icon, and it will generate the PDF. While this PDF file doesn't contain all the information a Distiller-created PDF would have, it's a quick 'n' dirty workaround that's good enough for many design jobs. For even more PDF powers, check out the tools under the Filters tab in Apple's ColorSync Utility (/Applications/Utilities).

CROSS-PLATFORM CDS

How can I get my Windows computer to recognize a Mac CD?

You need special software, such as MacDrive for Windows ($49, www.mediafour.com), to read it on the PC—but this is necessary only if you specifically created a Mac-only CD on your Mac. CDs created with Mac OS X's built-in CD-burning software work just fine on both Macs and PCs without extra software, as do CDs created using Roxio's Toast. Just be sure to choose the Mac & PC format option in Toast.

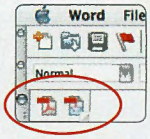


If you tell it to, Toast will make Windows-compatible discs.

BAN THE ACROBAT BAR

How can I remove the annoying little two-button Adobe Acrobat toolbar that shows up every time I open Word, Excel, or PowerPoint?

Don't you just hate that little thing? And getting rid of it is way more complicated than it should be. For a temporary fix, select Tools › Customize in any Office application (in Office 2004, it's Tools › Customize › Customize Toolbars/Menus), and uncheck the Adobe Acrobat PDFMaker item, but this only works until the next time you run that Office app. To remove it permanently, navigate to /Applications/Microsoft Office X or 2004/Office/Startup), and delete the PDFMaker files inside the Excel, PowerPoint, and Word folders.



To get rid of these little buggers...



...trash these files.

LARGE DRIVES

I bought a 160GB hard drive to put in my old Power Mac G4, but it shows up as 128GB. Where's the other 32GB?

The IDE drive controller in your G4 doesn't support drive volumes larger than 128GB. Starting with the Mirror Drive Door (MDD) Power Macintosh G4 in 2002, Apple began to use built-in drive controllers that can recognize volumes larger than 128GB. The only way to get your older G4 to recognize a volume larger than 128GB is to use an add-on PCI IDE card. Check out the four-channel SIIG

quick answers

RADIO PRESETS

It's such a hassle to navigate through all of the genres among the streaming radio stations inside iTunes. How can I set up iTunes to show only my favorites?

You can treat iTunes radio stations just like any other music files—simply add them to your Library via drag and drop. You can even create a Playlist that contains only your favorite stations.



You don't have to limit your Playlists to song files—they can contain radio stations as well.

RIP DIFFERENT

I copied a bunch of MP3s onto a CD, but iTunes doesn't recognize the disk. What gives?

iTunes recognizes only MP3 CDs created using iTunes.

SHUT ME DOWN

My Mac won't shut down when I select Shut Down from Mac OS X's Apple menu. What could be causing this?

An incompatible or malfunctioning USB device usually causes this problem. Disconnect all USB devices except for

UltraATA 133/100 Pro ($74.99, www.siig.com) and Sonnet Technologies Tempo ATA/133 ($79.99, www.sonnettech.com)—both are available from Other World Computing (www.macsales.com).

IMPORT MOVIES

I use iPhoto to import pictures from my digital camera, but what can I use to get at the video clips I shoot using the same digital camera?

Most digital cameras can record a small quantity of video (of limited quality), but iPhoto ignores these files when you connect your camera and click the Import button. To get to those video clips, fire up Image Capture (/Applications/Image Capture). This application will see your plugged-in and turned-on digital camera and let you import any movies you've recorded.



Apple's Image Capture handles movies—and even some scanners.

RERIP YOUR TUNES

I imported all of my CDs into iTunes at 256 Kbps, but now I want to save space by using the more-compact 128-Kbps setting. How can I reencode all my songs at a lower bit rate?

Unfortunately, there's no push-button way to reencode your tunes—you have to do it manually. Reset your importing preferences to 128 Kbps in iTunes' Preferences › Importing tab. Then simply highlight all of the files you want to reencode in your Main Library in iTunes and select Convert Selection To MP3 from the Advanced menu. This will make a duplicate of each of the originals, encoded at the lower bit rate. When that process is finished, delete the originals.

UNIX UNIVERSITY



KEY INTO SPEED

When typing commands into the Terminal, is there a faster way to navigate typed commands than using the arrow keys?

Typically you can use the left- and right-arrow keys to navigate forward and backward on the command line. You can also access previous commands by using the up- and down-arrow keys. However, some other navigation commands can make life a little easier. By default, the bash shell (Terminal in Mac OS 10.3) uses emacs-styled editing commands for the command-line (emacs is a Unix text editor, similar to vi). The commands are as follows:

`Control-A` moves the cursor to the beginning of the line.
`Control-E` moves the cursor to the end of the line.
`Control-K` deletes everything after the cursor to the end of the line.
`Control-U` deletes the entire line of text.
`Control-D` deletes the character to the right of the cursor.
`Esc-D` deletes the entire word to the right of the cursor.
`Delete` deletes the character to the left of the cursor.
`Esc-Delete` deletes the entire word to the left of the cursor.

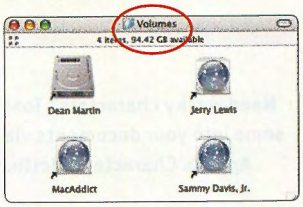


If you know the emacs text editor, you know how to navigate the Terminal—and you know the GNU mascot yak.

DOCK VOLUMES

Can I put a link to all of my volumes in the Dock?

You could simply drag your drive and network volume icons into the Dock, which works just fine. Or you could take a craftier approach—drag the invisible Volumes folder into the Dock for access to all of your volumes in one folder. Do this by selecting Go To Folder from the Go menu in the Finder. Type `/Volumes`, and click Go to open the invisible Volumes directory. From the top of the Finder window, drag the little folder icon for the Volumes folder into the Dock. You won't be able to access most removable drives via the Docked Volumes folder—but it's still handy.



Drag the title-bar icon into your Dock...



...and your hard drives stay there.

FIRST AID FOR FIRST AID

Disk Utility won't let me run Verify Disk or Repair Disk on my hard drive—both buttons are grayed out. How come?

You can't verify or repair the drive that contains the copy of Mac OS X you're running. You need to start up your Mac from your Mac OS X install disc and run its copy of Disk Utility to verify or repair the drive that houses OS X.



These handy tools can be picky lil' devils.

your keyboard and mouse to determine if that's the cause. It may be necessary to reconnect your devices sequentially to track down the culprit. When you do, check the manufacturer's Web site to make sure you have the latest driver software—if you do, the device might just be defective.



USB: It can be friend or foe.

Seven years of handling tech support for Apple, Power Computing, and a Texas school district have given Buz Zoller Mac superpowers.

Submit technical questions or helpful tips directly via email (askus@macaddict.com) or c/o *MacAddict*, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005.

Add Special Characters to Documents

EASY

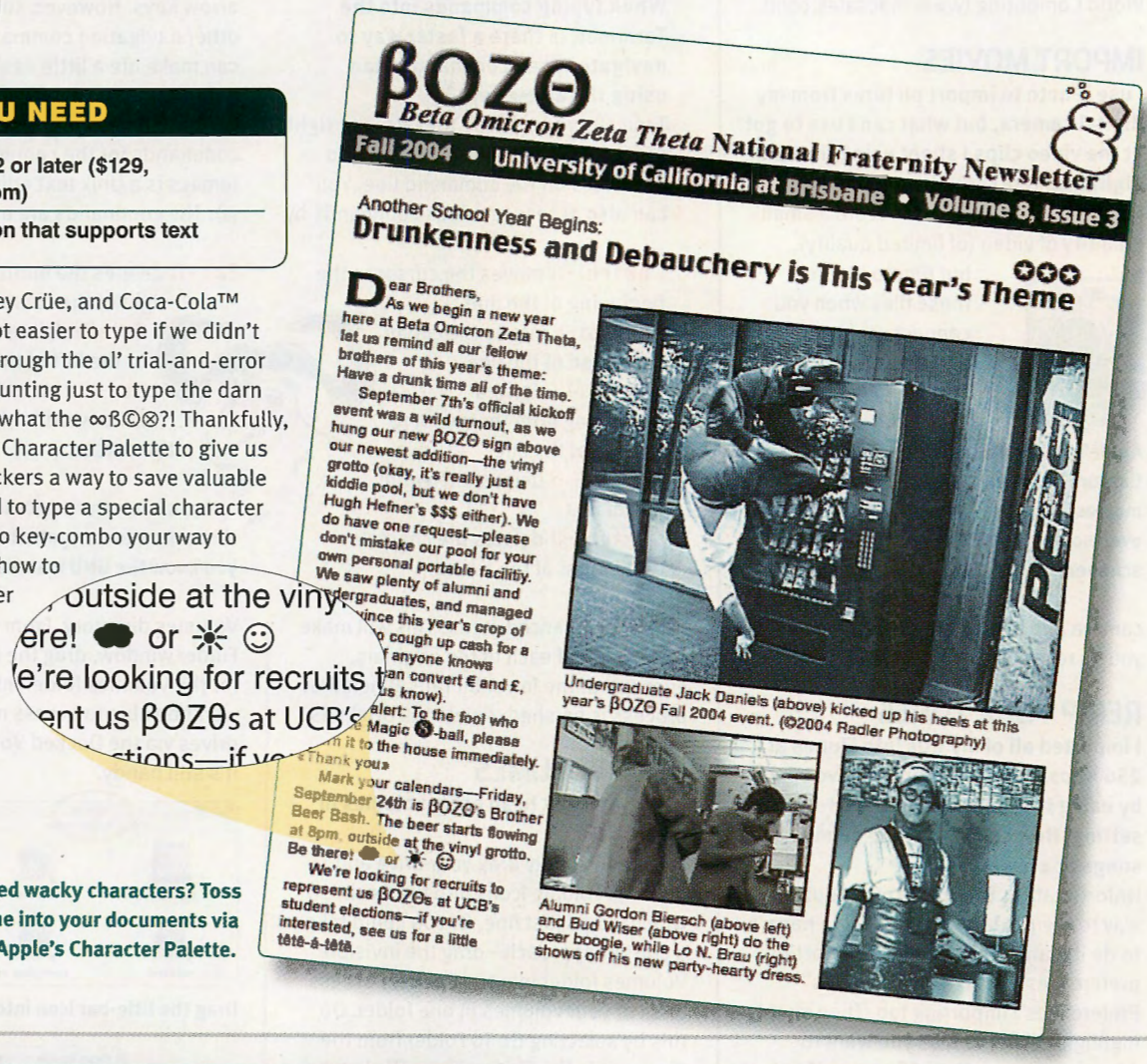
by Kris Fong

WHAT YOU NEED

Mac OS X 10.2 or later ($129, www.apple.com)

Any application that supports text

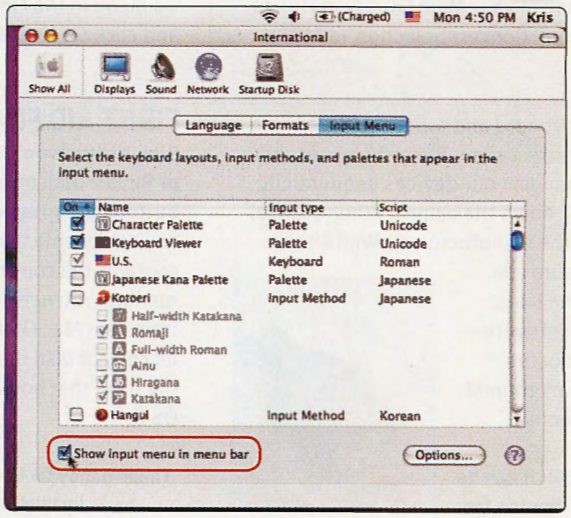
I ♥ Max, Mötley Crüe, and Coca-Cola™ would be a lot easier to type if we didn't have to go through the ol' trial-and-error key-combo hunting just to type the darn things—I mean, what the ∞ß©⊗?! Thankfully, Apple offers the Character Palette to give us hunters-and-peckers a way to save valuable time. If you need to type a special character and don't want to key-combo your way to oblivion, here's how to join the Character Palette ♣.



Need wacky characters? Toss some into your documents via Apple's Character Palette.

1 Get Some Character

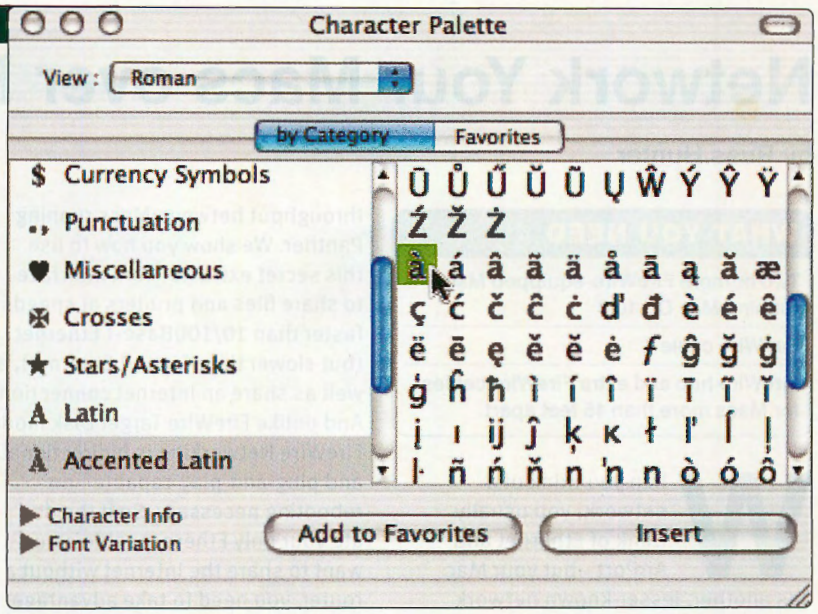
To access the characters, enable the Character Palette menu. (Though you can open the palette via Finder › Edit › Special Characters, turning it into a menu item allows global access in any app.) Open System Preferences and click International. In the resulting panel, click the Input Menu tab and check the Character Palette box. Panther users, check the Show Input Menu In Menubar box as well. Then close the window. You should see a small American flag (Panther) or palette icon (Jaguar) in the menubar. Now open an existing document or create a new one in your app of choice.



To make the Character Palette accessible from the menubar, check this box in Panther.

2 Put It to Use

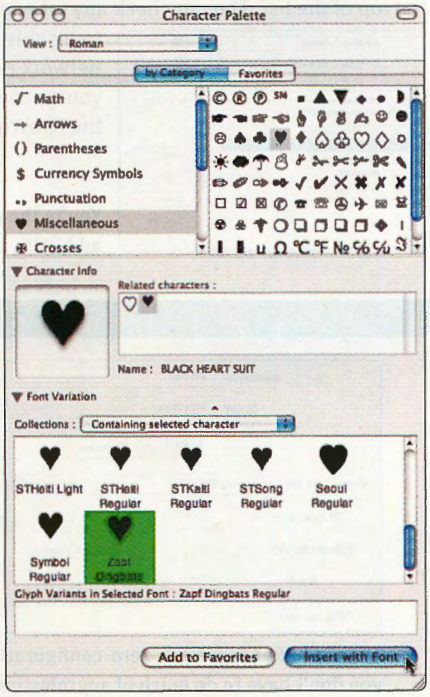
From your new menu, select Show Character Palette. Select Roman from the View drop-down menu and click By Category. Click any category name in the left pane to view its characters in the right pane. Here's a demonstration of how the palette works: Say you want to type *à la carte* in true French fashion. What's the key combination for *à*? Within the Character Palette, just click Accented Latin from the categories pane, scroll down the right pane until you see the *à* character, and double-click it to add it to your document in your current font at the insertion point. Likewise, click the Currency Symbols category to gain access to the euro (€) and English pound (£), or click the Miscellaneous category to find items like © and ☎.



Choose the right category, and you can hunt down characters as easy as π.

3 Find an Alternate

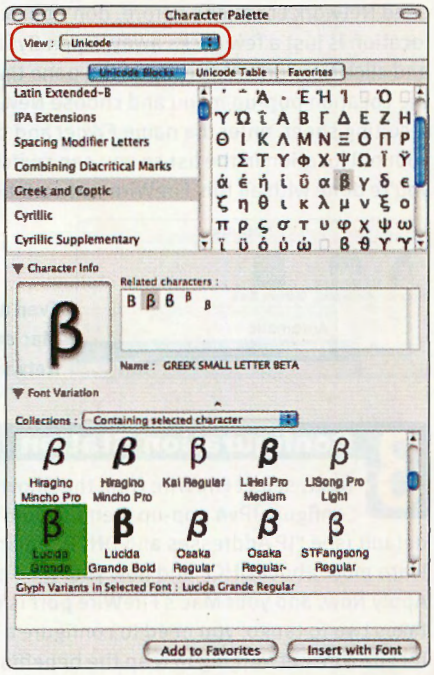
If nothing happened when you double-clicked, the current font's suitcase probably doesn't contain the chosen character. No problem—choose a font that does. Click the disclosure triangle at the bottom of the palette (it's labeled Font Variation in Panther). In Panther, select the character in the Collections panel that best matches your chosen font, and double-click the character to add it. If the Insert button (at the bottom of the palette) is grayed out, your app doesn't support this font choice—choose another font until you see the button in its active state. In Jaguar, check the Show Only Fonts Containing Selected Character box, select a font from the Font pop-up, and double-click the character in the Related Characters pane to add it (you may need to change your app's font to your alternate choice if the character doesn't display properly).



Because our magazine's MetaNormalLF-Roman font doesn't support this character, we Zapf Dingbatted it for our art guys.

4 When Not in Rome

If you need language characters other than Roman, such as Kanji or Cyrillic, change the View. For Chinese, Japanese, or Korean (in Panther) characters, choose the language from the View pop-up menu and go hunting. For Cyrillic, Greek, Tibetan, and more, select Unicode (in Panther) or All (in Jaguar) from the View pop-up and then select the appropriate language from the category pane. You'll find tons more dingbats, alphanumeric alternatives, and more in the Unicode palette.



Frat boys and Latin scholars take note—find your letters here.

Ce peut ne pas être français parfait, mais Kris Fong prend plaisir à savoir qu'elle peut taper cette phrase. (It may not be perfect French, but Kris Fong takes pleasure in knowing that she can type this sentence.)

Network Your Macs over FireWire

TRICKY

by Russ Hunter

WHAT YOU NEED

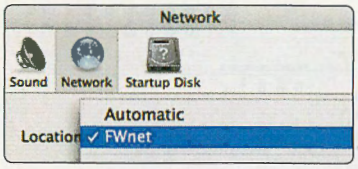
- Two or more FireWire-equipped Macs running Mac OS 10.3
- FireWire cable
- FireWire hub and extra FireWire cables for Macs more than 15 feet apart

When you think of a network, you usually think of Ethernet and AirPort—but your Mac has another, lesser-known network interface. Apple quietly added IP over FireWire support to Mac OS 10.3, opening the door to speedy 400-Mbps throughput between Macs running Panther. We show you how to use this secret extra network interface to share files and printers at speeds faster than 10/100Base-T Ethernet (but slower than Gigabit Ethernet), as well as share an Internet connection. And unlike FireWire Target Disk mode, FireWire Networking is bidirectional and plug-and-play capable—no rebooting necessary. So if the dog ate your only Ethernet cable, you want to share the Internet without a router, you need to take advantage of FireWire's speed, or you just feel like impressing your friends, FireWire networking is the ticket.



1 Location Is Everything

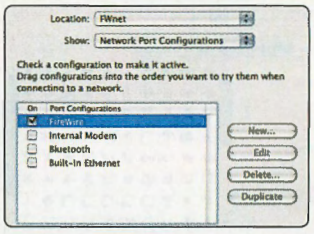
The Network Locations feature is an easy way to store separate network settings for different locations or situations. If you already use Network Locations, you might have one for work and a second for home. But if you've never used Network Locations before, don't panic. A change of location is just a few clicks away. Open System Preferences and click Network. At the top of the pane that appears, click the Location pop-up menu and choose New Location. In the resulting sheet, enter the name *FWnet* and click OK—and keep your old location in the list so you can switch back to it when you're done with all this FireWire-network hoo-ha.



Even an immobile desktop Mac can make good use of Network Locations.

2 Plumb a New Port

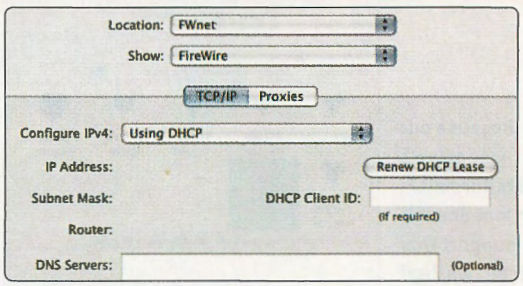
Now select Network Port Configurations from the Show pop-up menu. In the Port Configurations list, you'll see entries for Internal Modem, Built-In Ethernet, and possibly Bluetooth and/or AirPort. You want to add a new FireWire port to this mix, so click the New button. In the sheet that appears, change the Name field from Untitled to FireWire, and select Built-in FireWire from the Port pop-up menu. Click OK, and in the Port Configurations list, drag the new FireWire entry to the top of the list. Then uncheck any other entries in the list to disable their respective network ports—at least until you've configured and tested the FireWire connection.



You're the port authority here—add, edit, or deactivate at will.

3 Configuration Station

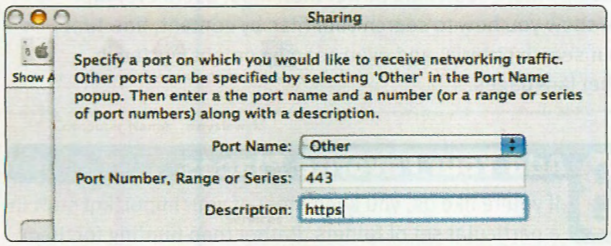
Next, select FireWire from the Show pop-up menu. The Configure IPv4 pop-up menu should be set to Using DHCP by default (see "IP Addresses and DHCP," facing page, if you'd like to learn more about DHCP and how your Mac gets an IP address). Click Apply Now, and your Mac's FireWire port is ready to network. Since it takes two to tango, you need to configure a second Mac (or several) for FireWire networking to reap the benefits. So repeat steps 1 to 3 on another Mac and connect the two with a 6-pin-to-6-pin FireWire cable before you move on to the next step. Note that the maximum length for a FireWire cable is 15 feet; if the Macs are more than 15 feet apart, you can use a powered FireWire hub or repeater to double the range.



Thanks to Rendezvous's zero-configuration networking, you don't have to do much of anything here.

4 Fire in the Hole

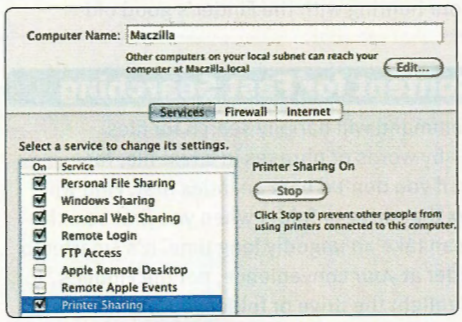
If you keep your firewall up and running (a good idea if you're connected to the Internet, especially via broadband), add entries for http and https to allow Web pages and secure Web pages, respectively. On the Mac connected to the Internet, open System Preferences and click Sharing; click the Firewall tab, then click New. In the sheet that appears, select Other from the Port Name pop-up menu, and enter 80 for the Port Number and http in the Description field. Click OK and repeat the process for Port Number 443, Description https. You're now ready to start sharing.



Punch a hole through your firewall if you want to share.

5 Share and Share Alike

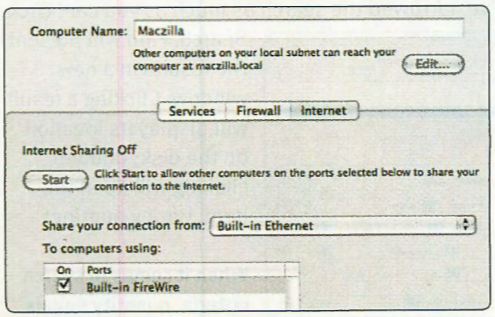
File sharing works the same over FireWire as it does on any other kind of network. Just go to System Preferences' Sharing pane and check the boxes to enable Personal File Sharing and whatever other shared services you need. Apple's Rendezvous technology also works over FireWire; as on a regular network, Rendezvous should make the hookup automatic—but it might not. Click the Network icon in a Finder window's sidebar to browse your nascent network, or select Go › Connect To Server in the Finder to connect by name. If you can't see one Mac from the other, you can kick-start the connection by disconnecting and reconnecting the FireWire cable or running the following in a Terminal window: `ping -c 10 broadcasthost`. If you still can't access shared services at this point, double-check your Sharing preferences and make sure you have the desired services enabled.



Note the Computer Name—you'll be looking for it from the other Macs.

6 Share the Internet

IP over FireWire is an excellent way to share a single Internet connection between two computers. Start by creating a Network Location for Internet Sharing on the *gateway* Mac—the one that's already connected to the Internet. Go to System Preferences' Network pane as you did in step 1, but this time select Edit Locations from the Location pop-up menu. Select the location you created in step 1 (FWnet) and click the Duplicate button. Change the name of the Location to NetShare and click the Done button. Now select NetShare in the Location pop-up menu and select Network Port Configurations in the Show pop-up menu. Your FireWire port should still be at the top of the list, but this time leave the Ethernet port checked as well—you need to have it active to connect to the Internet. Click Apply Now to save your settings. Next, go to System Preferences' Sharing pane and select the Internet tab. Set the Share Your Connection From pop-up menu to Built-in Ethernet, and in the To Computers Using list, check the box for Built-in FireWire. Then click the Start button to activate Internet Sharing.



Create a mini ISP by sharing your Internet connection.

Russ Hunter was into networking way, way before it was a cool thing to be into.

IP Addresses and DHCP

Your Mac sends out a DHCP (dynamic host configuration protocol) request when it connects to a network, and if there is a DHCP server connected to the same network, the server replies with an available IP address and other pertinent info. Your computer uses this information to configure the network interface. In a typical home network, AirPort Base Stations and other broadband routers act as DHCP servers for Ethernet and/or wirelessly connected Macs. For FireWire networking, one Mac acts as a mini DHCP server when you activate Internet sharing. If your Mac can't find a DHCP server on the network, the Mac can self-assign a DHCP IP address—which is smart, but when we set up a FireWire network, this self-assignment process occasionally failed. If all your settings are correct and you still can't connect, toggle Internet Sharing off and back on—this usually sets everything right.

Clean Up

When you're done with your FireWire network, return your system to its normal network settings. After disconnecting the FireWire cable, go to System Preferences, click Network, and change your location back to the original you noted in step 1. And the next time you need a FireWire network, you'll still have that FWnet location set up and waiting for you.

Command Command-F

EASY

by Johnathon Williams



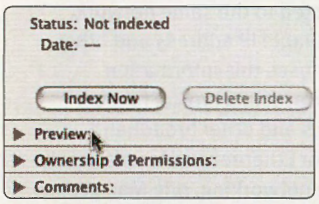
WHAT YOU NEED

Mac OS 10.2 or later

Mac OS 10.4 Tiger promises to revolutionize searching your Mac with its SpotLight supersearch technology ("Inside the Belly of the Beast," Sep/04, p20), but until the big cat arrives, you'll have to do your hunting with the Finder's good old Find command (Command-F). That's OK, though, because Find has more searching power than most users ever tap. We show you how to search your files by content, fine-tune your search criteria, and even search content written in other languages.

1 Index Content for Fast Searching

The Find command will happily search for files by content—by words or phrases in a text file, for example. However, if you don't create an index first, Find will automatically index that drive or folder when you first search it—a process that can take an ungodly long time. It's smarter to index a drive or folder at *your* convenience, not the Finder's. To create an index, highlight the drive or folder you want to search and press Command-I to bring up the Info dialog. Click the Content Index disclosure triangle to reveal its menu. Click the Index Now button to begin the process of indexing all the files in that drive or folder, but be warned: Indexing our nearly full 30GB hard drive for the first time took almost 24 hours. Rebuilding the indexes for your disks every month or so will keep your searches fast and accurate. To rebuild an index, use the same steps as before, but begin by clicking the Delete Index button. Then click Index Now to start afresh.



It's smarter to create an index when *you*—rather than the Finder—decide.

2 Search for Files in Other Languages

By default, the Find utility indexes only the contents of files written in your Mac's primary language. That's not good if you and your Mac are bilingual—but you can easily give your searches a more international flavor. If you're running OS 10.3, go to Finder › Preferences and click the Advanced tab, then press the Select button below Languages For Searching File Contents; if you're running OS 10.2, just click the same button in the main Preferences dialog. From the resulting menu, you can choose as many tongues as you need. (That came out sounding way more lascivious than we intended.)



Be sparing with the number of languages you add, however. More languages means longer indexing times and larger index files.

Parlez-vous français? We don't either—but our Mac can.

3 Add Your Favorite Places

If you're like us, you keep most of your important stuff in a particular set of folders. Rather than hunting for them each time you search, make them permanent additions to your Find dialog. Press Command-F to bring up the Find dialog, then click the Search In drop-down menu and select Specific Places. To create a shortcut to a folder, click Add, select the folder in the Choose A Folder dialog, and click Choose. To remove a folder shortcut, highlight its listing and click Remove or simply press the Delete key.

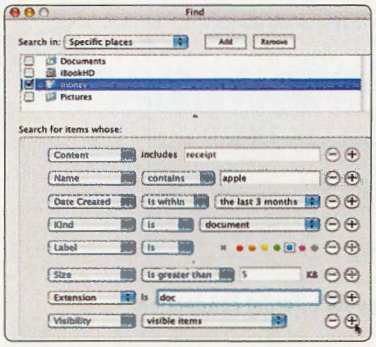


Add shortcuts to your favorite folders to save time when searching.

4 Narrow Your Search Criteria

Good searching is all about focus. Focused searches provide more-accurate results in less time. Creating a focused search means adding as many file details—or search criteria—as possible. To add criteria, click a plus sign (+) in the bottom pane of the Find window. If you're running OS 10.3, you can search by any combination of Content, Name, Date Created or Modified, Visibility, Label, and more—you have fewer options if you're running OS 10.2. Don't forget to also narrow the area you're searching as much as possible.

When you've narrowed the search as much as you can, click Search. Find will present the results in a new window. Clicking a result will display its location on the disk; double-clicking will open the item. Happy hunting!



When it comes to search criteria, quantity equals quality. Search with as many details as you can.

Johnathon Williams can find anything with his Mac—except a social life. Pretend to be his friend at www.johnathonwilliams.com.

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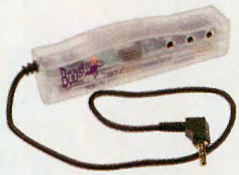
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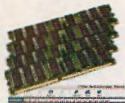
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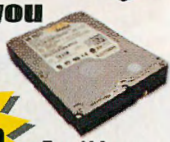




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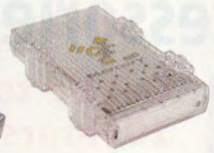


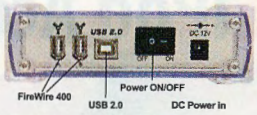
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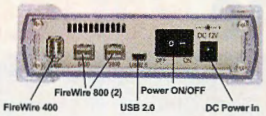
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200GB	7200RPM	8MB	$209.99	$239.99	$249.99
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* Elite 800 Pro Fw800/400 solution has same ports as pictured FW800/400 + USB model, without the USB 2.0 port.

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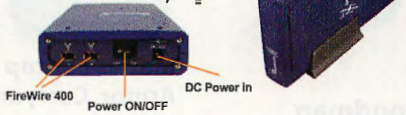
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250GB	7200RPM	16MB	$199.99

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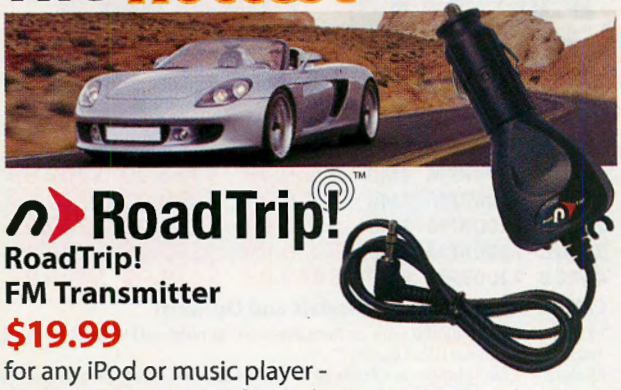
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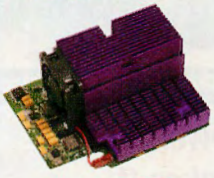


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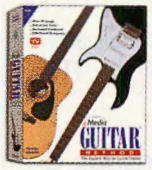
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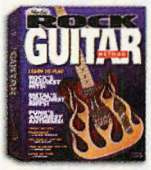


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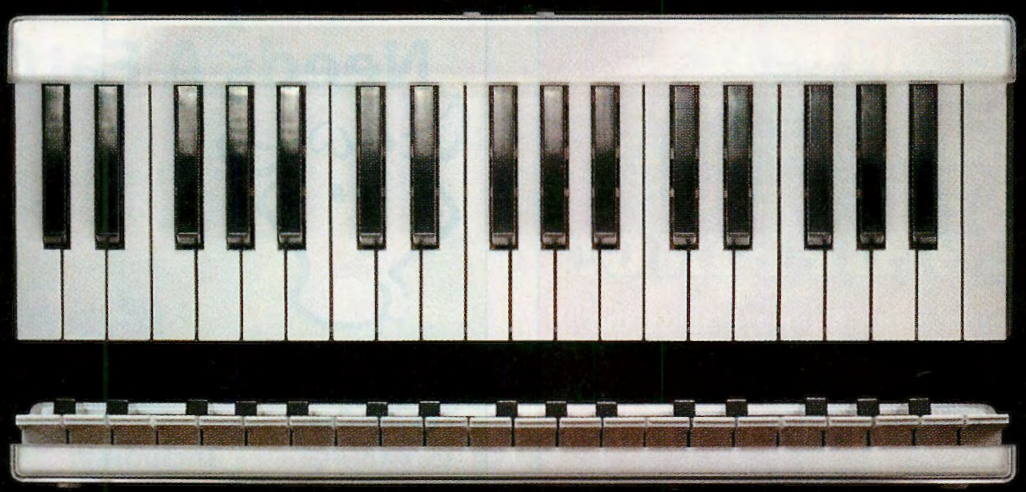
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LETTERS

COWABUNGA!

When I was in Germany last month, I found this in the woods. Is that the big surprise Bill Gates has for us in the next version of Windows, code-named Longhorn? Is he trying to overtake Mac OS 1.4, code-named Tiger?
—Karlheinz K. Naumann



Here's a feline-to-bovine breeding experiment gone horribly awry.

MESSIN' ABOUT

I really enjoyed "Shareware Explosion!" (Oct/04, p20), but the shareware I'm having the most fun with right now is a sister app to MacMAME called MacMESS (Multiple Emulator Super System, www.mess.org), which allows emulation of almost every old computer or console you've ever heard of—377 at last count. It's not terribly newbie-friendly, but being able to use my old TI-99/4A games on my iBook makes it worth the effort.
—Jay Kells

ALONE AT THE TOP

Rik wonders why everybody shouldn't switch to Macs ("When Viruses Attack!" Nov/04, p8). My opinion is that they shouldn't. Don't get me wrong, it would be great if the Mac ruled supreme—but if all of our friends and families had Macs, it sure would make for boring my-Mac-is-better-than-your-peecee conversations. There's nothing I like to say more than "If it were a Mac, I could..." when someone asks for help with something on a peecee.—*Joey Bentley*
It's so hard to not act superior when in fact we are—eh, Joey?—*Max*

MR. GUMBY LIKES US!

I had the opportunity to show the "mousecar" Staff Video from your October Disc to Art Clokey, the creator of Gumby and one of the great pioneers of stop-motion claymation—he chuckled and thought it was great. Art is a wonderful old guy, still actively involved in making films with his son. He always wears something reminiscent of Gumby, whether it's his blue-green pants or his Gumby suspenders.
—Tim Vaughan
Please tell Art thanks—and that those mean ol' Blockheads still give me nightmares.—*Max*



RECENTLY SIGHTED

Mac loyalty.—*Caesar Lima*
Are you sure this woman's not just a fan of Spike Lee's 1992 film, *Malcolm X*?—*Max*

PHOTOGRAPH BY CAESAR LIMA

MOVE OVER, EBERT

Nice to see a DVD-management app finally featured in your magazine (Oct/04, p14). Also good to see some great films like *Enter the Dragon* and *Léon* in your wee database. But what's with your one-star rating of *Pink Flamingos?!* And who in their right mind would borrow *Ishtar*? (Rik, obviously.) Also, DVDpedia (www.bruji.com/dvdpedia) is a far nicer app than your pick, DVD Database X. It also tastes like peach cobbler—and there isn't any other app that offers *that* feature.—*Andrew Todd, Master of Spoons and Other Strangely Alluring Household Items*
Rik tells me that *Ishtar* is actually Arabic for *Howard the Duck*.—*Max*

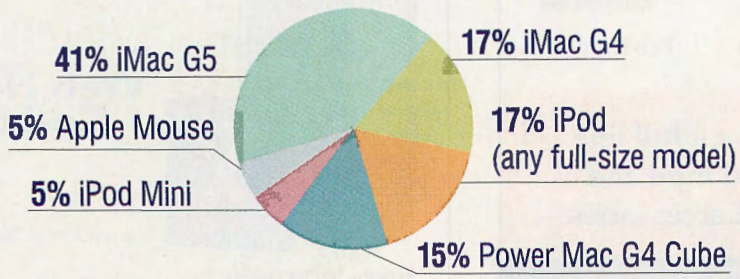
MONK IN A FUNK

In your August issue, I noticed a blurb about Hindu monks using Macs ("Of Macs and Monks," p16). They're not the only monks using Macs to publish. I'm an Eastern Christian monk, and my bishop and I have published three books and our entire Web site (www.byzantine-american.org) using our collection of Macs. We started with a IIcx and now have a G4—although I lust a bit for a dual-processor G5. But lust is a sin, and now I have to do penance for it.—*Fr. Brendan-Benedict*
Don't worry—we're sure the Big Heavenly Unit will understand your righteous passion.—*Max*

Survey Says

Here are the results of our September 2004 survey. Check out www.macaddict.com each month for a new online poll.

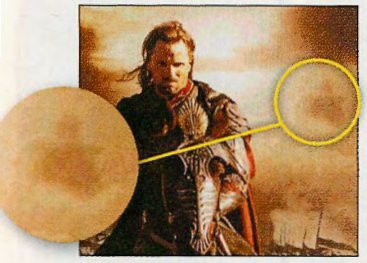
Which of Apple's streamlined designs works best for you?



536 respondents

CALLING DR. RORSCHACH

While shopping online for movie posters recently, I noticed our favorite computer made it all the way to Middle Earth. Check out the cloud formation on the right of this poster for *Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. It's the Apple logo!—*Jeff Hinkle*



We'd be willing to bet that Saruman used a Dell.

NOT LIKELY, BRIAN

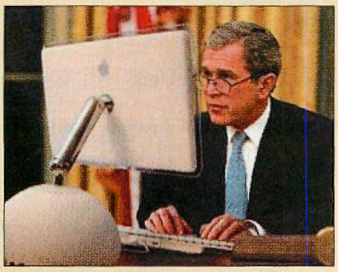
Your magazine is not sexy enough. Naked chicks and video-editing tools are like Mom and apple pie. Any opportunities for gratuitous nudity would also be nice. You should put more things horny guys like in the magazine.—*Brian Donofrio*

Anyone get the feeling that perhaps Mr. Donofrio is frequently home alone on Saturday nights?—*Max*

SIMPLE PLEASURES

Hold down Shift while pressing any Exposé function key, and the windows will move in slow motion. Practical use? I can't think of any, but it looks cool. —*John Pelura, III*

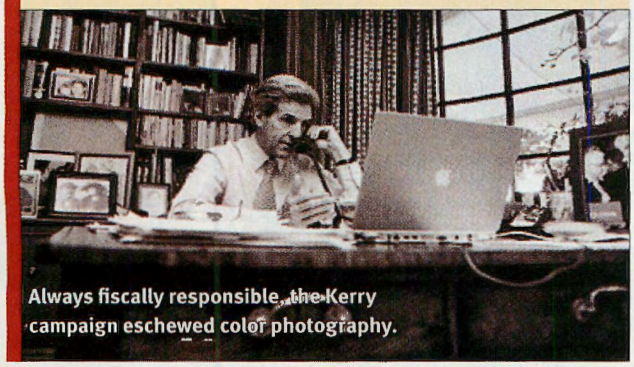
EQUAL TIME



Saw the pic of George W. using an iMac *(Log Out,* Nov/04, p78). I doubt the accuracy of that photo for two reasons: 1) *The Onion* (www.onion.com) used the same photo in a story a month or so ago (clearly that story was in jest), and 2) Even a Mac is too difficult for him to use.—*Jon Bonesteel*

Before Bush-buddy readers freak out at our liberal-media bias, read on—we're equal-opportunity disrespectorators.—*Max*

In what conservative talk-show hosts are calling his most desperate flip-flop, John Kerry was caught in this photograph, when only 16 days before while campaigning in Redmond he called the Mac "a colossal failure." —*Steve Coles*



Always fiscally responsible, the Kerry campaign eschewed color photography.

WIN!

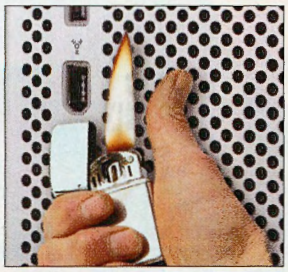


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Contest results will appear in our May/05 issue.

Contest Rules The judges will be *MacAddict* editors and will base their decision on 33 percent humor, 33 percent originality, and 33 percent creativity. All entries must be received no later than January 31, 2004, with the winner announced around May 2005. By entering this contest, you agree that Future Network USA may use your name, likeness, and Web site for promotional purposes without further payment. All prizes will be awarded, and no minimum number of entries is required. If two or more people enter identical winning captions, the entry received first will be awarded the contest prize. Prizes won by minors will be awarded to their parents or legal guardians. Future Network USA is not responsible for damages or expenses the winners might incur as a result of this contest or the receipt of a prize, and winners are responsible for income taxes based on the value of the prize received. A list of winners may also be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Future Network USA c/o *MacAddict* Contest, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005. This contest is limited to residents of the United States. No purchase necessary, void in Arizona, Maryland, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and where prohibited by law.



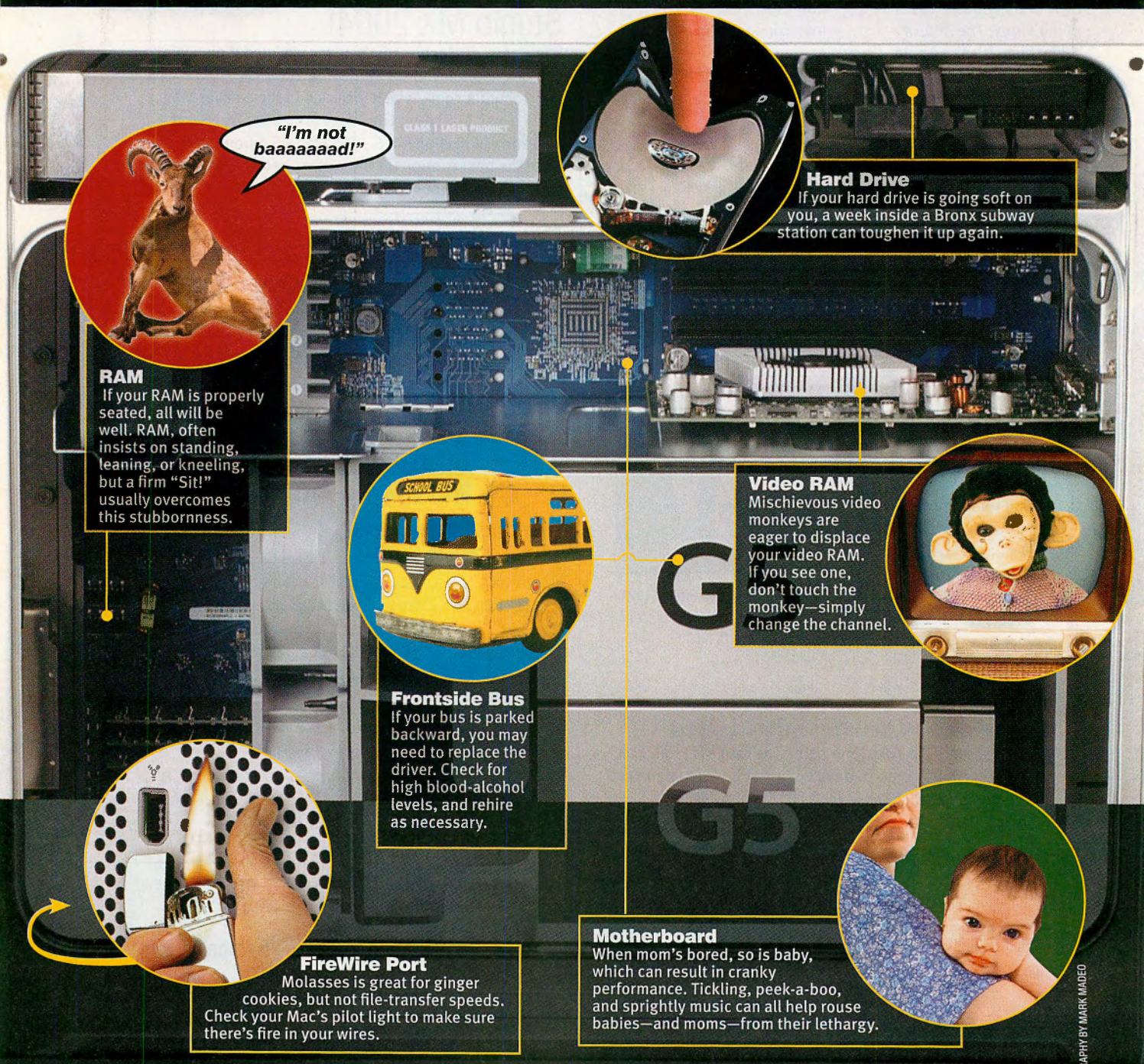
The F stops here.

Winner!

Congratulations to Mary Wagner, who won an Olympus D-580 Zoom camera ($279, www.olympus.com)—and special thanks to the 101 readers who contributed a variation on "Open the iPod bay door, HAL."

HARDWARE TROUBLESHOOTING: A VISUAL GUIDE

You've tried every tip in "Total Troubleshooting" (p16), but your Mac continues to play dead or dumb. Don't give up—just pop it open and use your own two-to-four eyes to check for hardware gone bad. Here are some examples of problems you might discover.



RAM
If your RAM is properly seated, all will be well. RAM, often insists on standing, leaning, or kneeling, but a firm "Sit!" usually overcomes this stubbornness.

Hard Drive
If your hard drive is going soft on you, a week inside a Bronx subway station can toughen it up again.

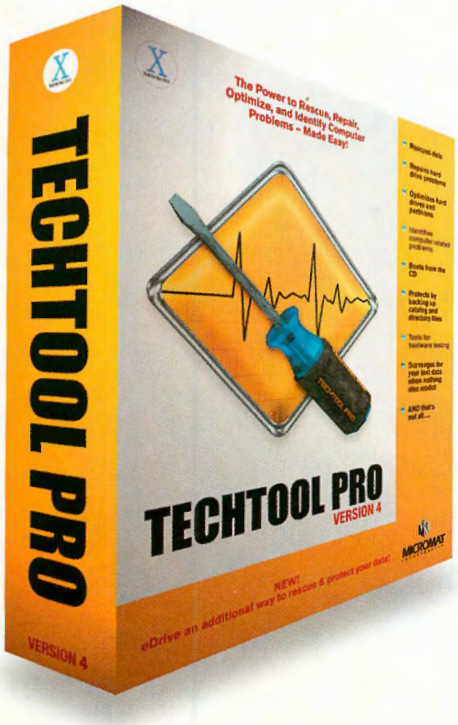
Video RAM
Mischievous video monkeys are eager to displace your video RAM. If you see one, don't touch the monkey—simply change the channel.

Frontside Bus
If your bus is parked backward, you may need to replace the driver. Check for high blood-alcohol levels, and rehire as necessary.

FireWire Port
Molasses is great for ginger cookies, but not file-transfer speeds. Check your Mac's pilot light to make sure there's fire in your wires.

Motherboard
When mom's bored, so is baby, which can result in cranky performance. Tickling, peek-a-boo, and sprightly music can all help rouse babies—and moms—from their lethargy.

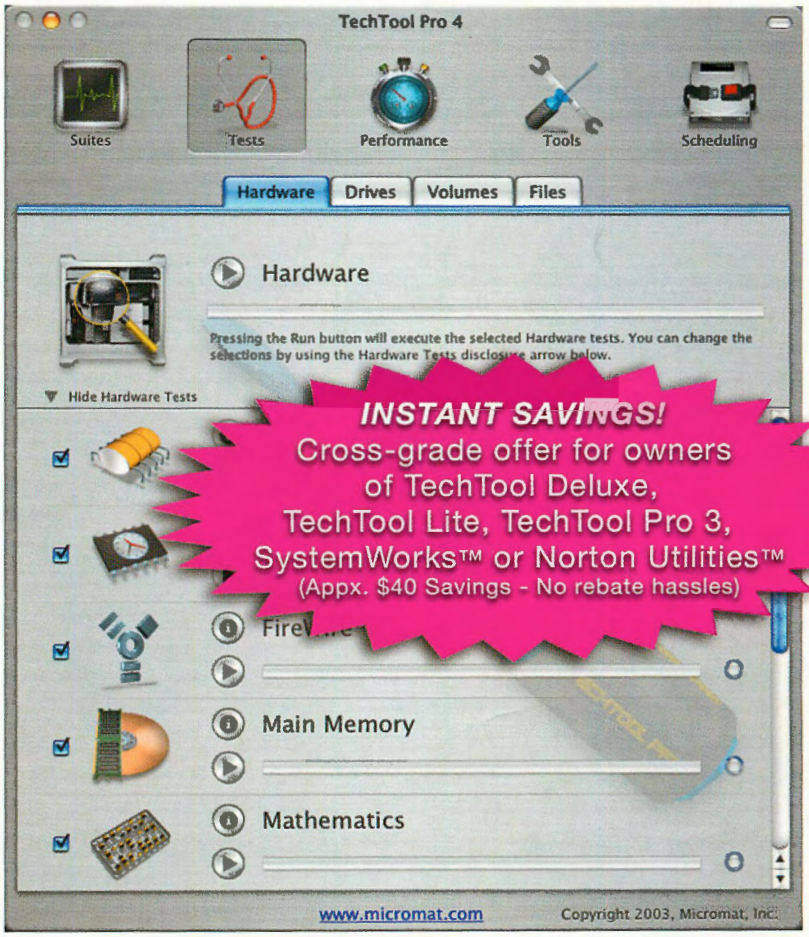
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